

MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS
PUBLIC COMMENTS FOR WOLF PROPOSALS
COMMENTS RECEIVED AS OF JANUARY 24, 2020

1. I oppose lowering the 313 and 316 wolf quotas. At a time when the N Yellowstone elk herd's population has barely climbed back from historic lows, and bull:cow ratios are very low according to FWP aerial surveys, it makes no sense to lower the wolf quota. The wolf populations is strong. There are more wolves in this portion of the state than nearly anywhere, yet this is one of only 2 areas to have a quota. Please use science - real science- not 'social science' when considering season changes. Keep the wolf quota at 2 per unit or consider raising it, or bringing 313/316 in line with most of the state and Wyoming and Idaho, by eliminating the quota.

Riley Pearson Maricopa, AZ

2. With the elk herd so far from objective (low) and moose populations extremely low why on earth would you even consider lowering the wolf quota? Please enlighten us.

Greg Sielinsky Roundup, MT

3. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Please make the wolf hunt quota to 1 wolf per section. Wolves are essential to our ecosystem. Wolf haters are ignorant.

Hunting District Comment: Please make the wolf hunt quota down to 1 wolf per section. These animals are still endangered and are essential to the balance of the natural ecosystem. Don't listen to the wolf-haters. They are uneducated and ignorant!

Mary Livingston, MT

4. ***William Cleveland Lander, WY***

5. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** It's a non native predator there shouldn't even be a season on it. Besides elk numbers are majorly reduced and wolf numbers are up, so why are we reducing the quota on WOLVES.

Hunting District Comment: There shouldn't even be boundaries because it's a non native predator!

Jarret O'Hair Livingston, MT

6. ***Wolf Season Comment*** Season should be extended.

Hunting District Comment: District boundaries should increased allowing hunter more land to hunt.

Jodi Leneghan Big timber, MT

7. ***Garrett Laurel, MT***

8. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I OPPOSE all proposed changes.. In fact they should increase the Quota to 5 as in other General Areas..!!!!

Hunting District Comment: There should be no limit or quota once outside the Park Boundaries or restrictions.. It should be the same as in other general areas!!

Mike Hubbard Emigrant, MT

9. **Wolf Season Comment:** The quota needs increased to to 7 which is what the wolf biologists thinks.

Hunting District Comment: There shouldn't even be buffer zone near the park

Matt traucht Emigrant, MT

10. **Wolf Season Comment:** It should be moved to year round season

Hunting District Comment: No longer boundary they should be hunt yang where outside the park and eliminated I have been here for 20 years and have watched all numbers of elk deer moose decline and not recover because of this invasion of wolfs .

Mark Garcia Bozeman, MT

11. **Wolf Season Comment:** WMU 313 and 316 remain problematic for their proximity to Yellowstone National Park protected wolves. The high level of probability that any wolf taken in these units being in most seasons Park wolves must result in a take limit of 0 - Zero, in WMU 313 and 316. The reductions as proposed are insufficient. Additionally, No take should be allowed in the Hebgen area of 310, 361 and 362. Montana FWP must also begin to recognize that the Gray Wolf is the only species with any strong probability of preventing the catastrophic spread of ungulate CWD. This infective prion disease causes shedding of infectious proteins for up to several years before symptoms visible to the human eye can identify its possibility. Since these particles persist for long periods in the environment, creating an infection zone, measures to prevent density of infections in hair, saliva, urine, feces, MUST be aggressively prevented. Since wolves possess the ability to detect small differences in health, stamina, and strength of elk, they must be regarded as the FRONT LINE of defense. Even famed elder Russian/Canadian biologist Valerius Geist, formerly biased toward elimination of wolves, after researching origins and causes of CWD, has admitted that an ecologically effective population of the Gray Wolf remains the ONLY likely successful method of preventing elk population collapse. Thus, eliminating or severely reducing allowed take in every wolf management unit remains the proper course of FWP regulation. As you may infer , I have worked in wildlife biology, as well as having been an avid visitor to Yellowstone NP for purposes of observation over a couple decades.

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting Districtg Boundaries must be practically designed to allow safer genetic flow across open terrain and interstate borders. Thus, Unit and District boundary take limits adjacent to other states, and in areas such as WMU 310, 320, 322, 325, 326, 329, 330, 331, 340, or 360. These areas must also remain safe for Grizzly Bear gene flows between YNP and the Bitterroots, as well.

Michael McLaughlin Eureka, CA

12. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please shorten the hunting season and reduce the quota from 4 to 2 for wolf hunting in units bordering Yellowstone. The wolves become habituated due to the number of people in the park and lose their natural fear of humans. Hunters have an unfair advantage. The hunters always go over the quota each season before the units get closed.

Hunting District Comment: There should be no hunting or trapping along the boundary of Yellowstone National Park. Numerous wolves have been harvested on the boundary resulting in

a huge impact on park wolf packs. As a regular visitor to Yellowstone as a wolf watcher, my family boycotts anti wolf businesses and will continue to do so.

Patti Barnes Orange Park, FL

13. **Wolf Season Comment:** We need to all that we can to lower the wolf population, to prevent the decimation of the elk herds.

Hunting District Comment: Expansion of wolf hunting boundaries, means and seasons are crucial to curb their numbers and facing the ultimate extinction of the Yellowstone herd.

William Taylor Granby, MO

14. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolf hunting needs to be at a level to mutually protect the elk.

Hunting District Comment: The boundaries, too, need to be such that the elk and wolf populations are kept at symbiotic levels.

Ann Epperson Ruston, LA

15. **Wolf Season Comment:** Need to up the licenses not drop the quota

Hunting District Comment: Trophy area needs to up the quota

Cork Meyer Rawlins, WY

16. In an effort to reduce wolf numbers on the landscape, the limit of 5 should be raised or made unlimited. Very few people actually spend the time and effort and this would give the people that actually spend the time and effort to manage them the ability to take more.

Brian Robbins Anaconda, MT

17. **Wolf Season Comment:** The wolf quota needs to be increased in all zones, not decreased in areas 313 and 316. These individuals who want the quotas reduced have no common sense with what is truly transpiring with wolf and big game populations. The wolves are protected in Yellowstone Park which is a problem in itself. We need to at least manage these wolves on the boundary of the park. What about protecting our big game populations?!

Hunting District Comment: I have not seen the proposed Wolf Hunting District Boundaries but I would imagine all the animal activists are trying to protect the wolves in boundaries near the park. Let's protect our big game populations, who wants to visit Yellowstone when there is little game to see.

Milton Apple Brockton, MT

18. **Wolf Season Comment:** I feel that we need to increase the quota for the number of wolves allowed to be taken in district 313 and 316. They are way above the number allowed for this area and need to be managed more. We are seeing less elk due to the number of wolves.

Hunting District Comment: I don't feel there should be boundaries any longer the wolves have gone above the managed size and needs to be allowed. We need to get these animals back in check if you do to district 313 Gardiner area any given time you will see anywhere from 15 to 40 wolves on decker flats.

Carla Williams Livingston, MT

19. I spend each summer in Cooke, City. As a wildlife tourist I spend a lot of money each summer to be there for the sole purpose of watching wildlife. I support lowering the quota in 313 and 316 because it is not ranch land but wilderness. We must maintain the wilderness values of these few places that are not developed. The revenues for Montana Wildlife viewing tourism is very significant to Montana. Times change and we must change with them to survive. Thank you

mike kelly hayward, WI

20. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** We need more permits for wolves and maybe even year round..remember I as a hunter pay your wages..stop this idiocy to placate the wolf lovers and the hunters

Hunting District Comment: No change

Michael Shepard Columbia Falls, MT

21. Delist then and make them like Coyotes The whole state

Stan Helena, MT

22. Raise the wolf quota. Do not lower it.

Daniel Mathis Trout Creek, MT

23. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I agree with reducing the hunting quota. We need to protect the wolves in order to maintain a healthy ecosystem inside and outside of Yellowstone National Park.

Montanans benefit both aesthetically AND financially when we have a strong wolf population.

Hunting District Comment: Please establish a true buffer zone around Yellowstone National Park. The wolves play a vital role in the health of the park, and the subsequent income the park provides Montanans.

Natalia Rogers East Helena, MT

24. I think trapping season should start Nov. 1st and should be allowed to use snares.

Thomas Jackson stevensville, MT

25. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** In my opinion after hunting, a decade, in unit 313 before 1995 the elk and deer hunting used to be great up there. Now after hunting near Gardiner every year since 1996 I see less elk and moose

Hunting District Comment: Please add more boundaries and expand wolf hunting areas and up the limit. It should be 2 wolf limit every day year around. Quite honestly they are a very elusive animal and people Rarely see them Let lone shoot one

Denny lykins Livingston, MT

26. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Use existing quotas!

Hunting District Comment: Use existing district boundaries!

Don Wallace Deer Lodge, MT

27. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** There should be no quotas in those areas

Hunting District Comment: Open the state entirely

Cass Billings, MT

28. Increase quota, not decrease

Kyle Scofield Butte, MT

29. **Wolf Season Comment:** We need more elk and less wolves in every area, there have been less and less calves surviving more than their first year, this means that the herds are aging too fast to be replenished properly and will eventually die off and we'll have nothing left.

Hunting District Comment: the boundaries need to exclude Jackson Hole and the elk refuge. Those areas should be in the predator zone with no limits.

Brandon Worland, WY

30. **Wolf Season Comment:** Up the quota per person in all HD and eliminate the protection zone around Yellowstone

Hunting District Comment: There should be no boundaries for wolf hunting, make it a 15 per Hunter state Wide for hunting and 15 per Hunter for trapping. No boundaries. The national parks they have in the state are plenty big enough to serve as a protection zone. Anywhere cattle and sheep are allowed to graze we should be allowed to hunt them. They are a hazard to Montana's oldest mainstay industry, agriculture, let's not turn our backs on the men and women who feed America and the world!

Kegan Krueger Columbus, MT

31. **Wolf Season Comment:** If anything we need to up the quota

Hunting District Comment: Should be any thing outside the park is Leagel

Shawn Doss McLeod, MT

32. **Wolf Season Comment:** Raise the wolf quota. They are the unnecessary bad result of a non-essential experiment. They're non-native Canadian wolves and they killing native wildlife.

Hunting District Comment: Expand the boundaries.

Tyson Calistri Lincoln, NH

33. **Wolf Season Comment:** No change raise quota

Hunting District Comment: No xchange

Lance Dempster BT, MT

34. **Wolf Season Comment:** Dear Men and Women would you please reconsider the hunting season proposes. Too many animals are gonna die. And a lack off DNA. DIFFERENT DNA from wolf's further than the boundaries of Yellowstone national park. Please consider to keep at least a certain space around Yellowstone National Park freefrom hunters. Yellowstone and greater Yellowstone was a save haven.

Hunting District Comment: Also please consider to keep the concept off that greater Yellowstone. It was the save haven for nature where wolf's and bears had a safe place.

Luc Embrechts ASSE, AZ

35. **Wolf Season Comment:** Make the season longer
Hunting District Comment: Open it up state wide
Matt Fruita, CO
36. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please raise the quota on wolf harvest, the elk herds will not survive
Hunting District Comment: Elk and deer need our help , the wolves are killing off the herds .
Gerry Keas Conneaut Lake, PA
37. **Wolf Season Comment:** Kill them all please!
Hunting District Comment: Please kill all wolves everywhere
Richard Pacheco Reno, NV
38. **Wolf Season Comment:** An unlimited and open all year season. A proposed season going forward would be best for the ecosystem and ecology pertaining to any non wolf species as wide open to wolves. Due to humans hunting, we make an impact on the ecology of the species we hunt and as such we can not have both wolves and humans make an equal impact driving the animals we hunt to desperate levels.
Hunting District Comment: A proposed boundary for wolves should be any area that is open to hunting any other animal should be open to wolves, regardless of wolf packs or wolves being present. This is because wolves move in such a wide range and distance that districts need to be open before they move into them to prepare and enable hunters to get ahead of the curve
Reid Rowsey Helena, MT
39. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please consider raising the quota our elk herds are being decimated. My choice would make them same as coyotes no quota or season
Hunting District Comment: Include the whole state.
Kevin Bochy Billings, MT
40. **Wolf Season Comment:** There should be unlimited hunting of wolves in units 313 and 316. Hunter's money, through the Pittman-robison act, provided the surplus of big game for 80 years. Then pro predator officials wanted wolves and used that money! Please reduce the wolves to about 100 for the entire state.
Hunting District Comment: There should be unlimited hunting of wolves in units 313 and 316. Hunter's money, through the Pittman-robison act, provided the surplus of big game for 80 years. Then pro predator officials wanted wolves. Please reduce the wolves to about 100 for the entire state. The elk have been pushed off of public land by wolves. Private property has most the elk in this unit now. Livestock owners have suffered alot also.
TA Lockling Billings, MT
41. **Wolf Season Comment:** Why do we need a season on these imported killers? People who brought them in should be charged with environmental terrorism for what they have done to livestock and our game herds.
Hunting District Comment: Same as above!

Dennis Lee Coonfare Billings, MT

42. **Wolf Season Comment:** Reduce the wolf population

Hunting District Comment: Open boundaries

Jason Belgrade, MT

43. **Wolf Season Comment:** Changing the quotas is absurd! The wolf population is already to high, so if anything increase it! Don't decrease it!

Hunting District Comment: Don't care

Clayton Busby Livingston, MT

44. **Wolf Season Comment:** The wolf quotas do not need to be lowered.

Hunting District Comment: Leave the boundaries like they are.

David Roberts Marion, MT

45. **Wolf Season Comment:** Around this area we already are having a problem managing the wolf. Your average hunter does not harvest a wolf in any given season. In an already devastated elk herd, the last thing we need is a decreased quota season. If you want elk in southwestern Montana to eventually be eradicated, and our children not able to ever pursuit elk then irrational decisions like this, and the species of elk alone must mean nothing to you.

Hunting District Comment: District I believe wolf hunting district boundaries need to be removed. Wolves are a highly intelligent animal that are already impossible to manage. By adding in boundaries and bands will reduce the amount of wolves that can be ethically and legally harvested, which is something that our native specie elk herds cannot afford.

Hunter Burda Livingston, MT

46. **Wolf Season Comment:** They are a non native predator hunt year round

Hunting District Comment: They are a non native predator there should be no boundaries

John Adams Livingston, MT

47. **Wolf Season Comment:** I think there should be 10 to 20 wolves kill in these regions

Hunting District Comment: I think there should be 10 to 20 wolves kill in these regions

John Adams Livingston, MT

48. **Wolf Season Comment:** Do not lower the quota on wolves for 316. The elk beard has been drastically reduced by wolves in this area.

Sarah Hubbard Livingston, MT

49. **Wolf Season Comment:** The quota should be increased.

Hunting District Comment: Make access easier

Sean Goates Billings, MT

50. I oppose the reduction of the wolf quota in districts 313 and 316. The wolf population needs to actively managed and allowing wolves free reign will result in more and more conflicts.

Yellowstone wolves already have 2.2 million acres to roam freely, they do not require more.
Thank you for your consideration of my concerns, Eli

Eli Cummins Gardiner, MT

51. I have been visiting Yellowstone every year for the last 24 years specifically to see the wolves. I spend money on lodging, gas and food in both Gardiner, Silver Gate and Cooke City to see live wolves. I urge you to lower the wolf-hunt quotas along Yellowstone's border to only 1 wolf in each Wolf Management Unit 313 and 316. This is a wilderness area, not ranch lands, and wolves are valued for both tourism and research. Montana's economy depends on wildlife watching from people like me who come to view the wolves. The wolves play a vital role in helping manage elk and keeping the herds healthy. For instance, wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease. There are plenty of opportunities for hunters to kill wolves in the rest of Montana so managing this small protected area of 313 and 316 differently with tourism and wolf research should be a priority. Thanks for considering my comments. Terri Stewart

Terri Stewart Denver, CO

52. **Hunting District Comment:** All areas of the southern side of the state

Dustin Ballantine, MT

53. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please increase the quota for wolves in this area instead of decreasing.

Hunting District Comment: I am against any changes in the boundaries

Karl Schuman Kalispell, MT

54. **Wolf Season Comment:** Our Wolves are already being Reduced by big numbers. Wolves are Sentient Beings that are Essential to the Eco-System's. STOP Appeasing the Welfare Ranchers and the Blood Lusting Trophy Murderers. Tourism should be BOYCOTTED to Your State!

Hunting District Comment: STOP Killing OUR WILDLIFE!

Stacey Smith Henderson, KY

55. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves do not need more protection, they were introduced to Yellowstone National Park. Once they left the park they should become a predator able to be shot on site anytime.

Hunting District Comment: Only boundary needed is the Park boundary.

Curtis Lord Billings, MT

56. **Wolf Season Comment:** Need more tags not less

Hunting District Comment: Run them all the way to yellow stone park. Do not down size them

Patrick noack Ennis, MT

57. **Wolf Season Comment:** Raise wolf harvest

Hunting District Comment: Open boundaries

Ronald McKendrick Livonia, MI

58. I oppose the reduction of wolf's taken from 2 to 1 in regions WMU313 and WMU316.

Sage Crosby Arcadia, OK

59. There is no reason to reduce the number of wolves harvested. The wolf population is not in danger.

Richard Tramp Townsend, MT

60. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Wolf hunting has a very low success rate, please expand seasons and limits to maximize opportunity.

Hunting District Comment: Please expand boundaries to expand opportunity for wolf hunting.

Chris Sloan Ennis, MT

61. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Keep seasons the way they are, or extend them longer in areas with high depredations

Hunting District Comment: I'm Satisfied with current boundaries

Shawn Whitman Kalispell, MT

62. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** Quotas in wolf hunting districts near Yellowstone need to be increased not decreased. The elk and moose herds have been decimated by predators. The only way to bring real balance is to remove more predators.

Hunting District Comment: There should not be exclusion zones near Yellowstone.

Steve Linde Billings, MT

63. Do not lower the wolf quotas in an units! They need to be managed state wide!

Robert Schultz Wausau, WI

64. I disagree with the proposed hunting season changes for wolves in areas 313 and 316. Our state has a problem with too many predators at this time we need to be harvesting more wolves, bears, and mountain lions. Not less

Whitney Shanks Kalispell, MT

65. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** With all the damage these wolves are doing we need to have a larger wuote

Hunting District Comment: These need to be opened up. No boundaries

Kevin Billings, MT

66. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** The wolf quota should not be lowered it should be raised if you look at the statistics of what the elk population has done since the wolves were re Introduced it has done nothing but plummet there should be a dam bounty in them like Idaho has if more wolves are not taken there is not going to be any other animals left!!!

Hunting District Comment: It needs to be wide open across the state of Montana no boundaries or liners and open season year round!

Robert Ronan, MT

67. **Wolf Season Comment:** People that were involved with reintroducing wolves claim they haven't had a negative effect on the elk, THEY need to be challenged on this false information they're putting on Facebook!

Hunting District Comment: There shouldn't be any boundaries!

Leon Christensen Richfield, UT

68. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves need to be regulated they are destroying elk herds

Hunting District Comment: Wolf season should be extended

Gina Stevensville, MT

69. **Hunting District Comment:** HD 313 and 316, Again MFWP is being pressured by our big brother YNP to lower the quota in boundaries surrounding YNP. The last time you guys tried to apply a buffer zone around YNP the Montana Legs had to step in pass a law to prohibit you from doing this. We are watching you. Stand up for the Montana hunters that support your existence.

Jeff Mount Livingston, MT

70. **Wolf Season Comment:** Do not lower the quota, raise it

Hunting District Comment: Enlarge the boundary

William Littell Big Timber, MT

71. **Wolf Season Comment:** Season dates should remain the same and no quotas should be lowered

Hunting District Comment: There is no scientific reason To change district boundaries or bag limits within boundaries.

John Bullion Ekalaka, MT

72. **Nic beck Fergus falls, MN**

73. **Wolf Season Comment:** Letting Wolf back at all was a huge mistake. They are decimating other populations. We need to rid ourselves of this mistake but, since this likely won't happen NO boundaries, NO limits!

Hunting District Comment: NO BOUNDARIES kill all the Wolfe's or as many as possible.

Gerald Workman St. Peters, MO

74. **Wolf Season Comment:** There should be an INCREASE on wolf hunting in Montana, no quotas.

Hunting District Comment: No quotas in any WMU! We need to INCREASE wolf harvest across MT, especially in areas where moose, elk and deer populations are declining and where depredation on livestock is occurring.

Stacy Kandel Trout Creek, MT

75. **Wolf Season Comment:** I along with hundreds of residents propose no to all of the proposed changes. Having worked in law enforcement in the area and knowing FWP employees along with how things are run with the commission not actually listening to their own biologists; and being that the state has now gone against what it proposed before the introduction; this has gone too far with the state protecting all the non profit money being donated for these

ridiculous wolf protections. You the commission are not protecting our resources and haven't been for years. I vote no

Hunting District Comment: I along with hundreds of residents propose no to all of the proposed changes. Having worked in law enforcement in the area and knowing FWP employees along with how things are run with the commission not actually listening to their own biologists; and being that the state has now gone against what it proposed before the introduction; this has gone too far with the state protecting all the non profit money being donated for these ridiculous wolf protections. You the commission are not protecting our resources and haven't been for years. I vote no

Dean DuVall Livingston, MT

76. I'm all for it

Sarah Watson Colorado springs, CO

77. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lowering the quota will only reduce the elk and deer populations even more! Let the hunters handle the conservation.

Hunting District Comment: Leave them alone.

Laura Andren Belgrade, MT

78. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower the wolf tags

Hunting District Comment: Any wolf out of park should be treated the same as rest of state, no special treatment

Ric Twardoski Hamilton, MT

79. **Wolf Season Comment:** The wolf season needs to be open for a longer period. They are killing off other wild life. Making it impossible for wild life to survive. Also impossible for new wildlife to want to live in the area.

Hunting District Comment: These need to be expanded. The wolves need to be thinned out. I have family in West Yellowstone. I go up every year to hunt. The wolf population is out of control, destroying the Elk and other wild life

Dawn Scatizzi OFallon, MO

80. Don't reduce the harvest of wolves in this area. As you can tell already the wolf population is not going down at the current harvest rates. The harvest rates should stay the same.

Joe Robillard Billings, MT

81. **Wolf Season Comment:** Kill less wolves!

Hunting District Comment: Make the boundaries smaller

Brittany Billings, MT

82. lowering the wolf quota in these districts will do even more damage. The elk hers there have been declining for years and the people who pay your paychecks as hunters do not want to see this continue to go down hill.

Dylan Lewis Missoula, MT

83. **Wolf Season Comment:** Open up bait and shoot on Wolves.

Hunting District Comment: No comment on the Boundaries

James Prevost Fort Peck, MT

84. **Wolf Season Comment:** Allow more tags

Hunting District Comment: Expand boundaries

Rick Tilstra Sheridan, MT

85. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolf quota should either be raised to help with management of an out of control predator, or to be more effective, they should be treated the same as coyote or fox

Hunting District Comment: Wolf hunting should be allowed anywhere in the state where there is wolves, with no boundaries

Thomas Stevensville, MT

86. **Wolf Season Comment:** We are losing healthy elk to the wolves, the wolf kill count needs to go up not down.

Hunting District Comment: Boundaries need to be expanded not decreased.

Stephanie Call Cascade, MT

87. Protect our Elk.. reduce wolf numbers!

Karla Roche Helena, MT

88. **Wolf Season Comment:** This is absurd, we need to increase the amount of tags given out and not decrease them. These wolves are overpopulated and killing everything in site!

Hunting District Comment: There should be an open season on these things. No reason to have them protected with a season as they are virtually nocturnal and tough to hunt.

Eric Smith Emigrant, MT

89. **Wolf Season Comment:** The changes to drop the quote make absolutely no sense. Yellowstone Park has already been ruined by wolf overpopulation. Now you are seeing wolves where wolves have never been, human populated areas and out of the high country. Putting people and their animals in jeopardy, ranchers have to deal with them enough on summer grazing permits.

Hunting District Comment: After seeing Wolves over the last five years in the Whitehall area in which we hunt. It is pretty easy to see that number in areas where wolves have been for 20 years. They are not only multiplying at a outrageous number, but they are also moving to find food as established packs are eating the majority of available food sources.

Tanner Neumann Whitehall, MT

90. Do not lower wolf quota. Should be raising them.

Tammy doyra Missoula, MT

91. **Wolf Season Comment:** Increase the numbers harvested until there is none left!! We would have more big game to hunt and eat !!! These high breed wolves should never been introduced in the first place!!! Then these idiots turned them loose with that FEW worms spreading to other animals!!! They need a open kill season all year long with no tags needed!!!!
Hunting District Comment: Extend wolf hunting areas and a year around hunting season,with no tags required
ANTHONY Hiatt Baker city, OR
92. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please do not change the wolf hunting seasons unless you lengthen then.
Hunting District Comment: There are too many wolf's and they need managed like all wildlife.
Mike Bushman Massillon, OH
93. **Wolf Season Comment:** No more wolves please. I understand their purpose, but let's save the elk first
Hunting District Comment: Same
Christian Roemer Danville, CA
94. **Wolf Season Comment:** No quota, set unlimited quota
Hunting District Comment: Same boundaries, set unlimited quota
Ryan Tilstra Livingston, MT
95. Quotas do not need to be lowered! Every year of my hunting career in district 313 I have seen fewer and fewer elk/ deer. Every year I see more wolves! The wolves are killing off the elk herd. Wolves are devastating to bull elk and as a consequence it is very hard to find a legal browline bull in the areas. It has been years of me personally seeing the number of mature elk dwindling down. If there is not a fix to the wolf problem my future children will not be able to enjoy the great opportunity I have had thus far. I live to hunt yet the out of state hunters and wolves ruined most hunting in paradise valley there needs to be a change in favor of the DIY hunter/ Montana citizens.
alex john michaelson billings, MT
96. **Wolf Season Comment:** Do not change the seasons or quotas.
Hunting District Comment: Leave boundaries as they are!
Dan John Roundup, MT
97. **Wolf Season Comment:** Increase the number of tags in all units
Hunting District Comment: No limit on everything outside of Yellowstone National Park
Kelly Chapin Soda Springs, ID
98. **Wolf Season Comment:** The quota should be raised across the state...the wolves are wiping out the calf crop especially the Northern herd.....this yellowstone herd has less than 10 percent recruitment....this northern elk herd needs protection....the wolves are overwhelmingit

dismays me to hear the science of naming the wolves and packs then trying to protect all members....this is so bias and slanted....how about we start naming and saving each elk!!!

Hunting District Comment: They should be treated as coyotes statewide!!....the wolf is in no danger of being wiped out....actually cant keep their numbers in check.....let's get some honesty in the management.....bring back Fred King and Kurt Ault.....now there is an example of proper herd management.

Dennis Moylan Bozeman Mt, MT

99. **Wolf Season Comment:** The quotas should be increased not decreased. Tags should be free.

Hunting District Comment: There should be no boundaries

Michael Kohr Putnam, IL

100. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves are the cruel killers there is! I have witnesses their kill of livestock. They never kill and finish eating what they killed! They will eat the animal alive from the rear East of the animal eat part of the animal and let the animal die a slow death. I have have been livestock down because of it! They breed and their packs don't stop growing! They will kill not eat, anything in their path! They are not helping the Elk in Montana, Idaho or any area in the USA! They are depleting the herds so Fast they the herd will be extinct soon! One of the wolf pack will die 3-others will replace it due to the high rate of births. Reduce the wolves to a manageable level! But killing off herd of Elk, Moose and other big game animals is not the answer!

Hunting District Comment: FG are wrong to set up any boundaries! Wolves go to the food! They stop at nothing to kill but not consume!

Rex Portmann Idaho Falls, ID

101. **Wolf Season Comment:** The wolves are not being managed correctly. The quota should be at least 10 wolves

Hunting District Comment: Wolves move great distances, boundaries are not going to accurately represent as they do for deer and elk.

Justin Souza Belgrade, MT

102. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please stop the hunting of these intelligent animals that keep our environment healthy.

Hunting District Comment: Make it a goal to expand wolf boundaries to provide a healthy wolf population across our country.

Johanna Nekvasil Miami, FL

103. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please stop the hunt. Please, please watch the video by National Geographic on wolves and their enormous good contribution to the environment. They also have sophisticated family units. They are not dumb beasts!

Hunting District Comment: Please just stop the hunt

Ali Mosa Silverdale, WA

104. **Wolf Season Comment:** I would like to see the quota raised. I believe there are a lot more wolves then we are being told and more needs to be done to manage the numbers.
Hunting District Comment: The boundaries are good the way they are.
JR Karo Bozeman, MT
105. Don't please save the elk and deer kill the wolves
Brady mills Canyon creek, MT
106. **Wolf Season Comment:** Ridiculous.....wolves numbers are out of control. If anything allow more tags to be issued.
Hunting District Comment: We need more districts to open up to wolf hunting!!
Bob Livingston, MT
107. **Wolf Season Comment:** I believe you should up the amount of wolfs taken. They are multiplying like rabbits and spreading like crazy! Wolves should have a bounty on them!
Hunting District Comment: Up the amount taken in these districts!
Carol Grewell Helena, MT
108. **Wolf Season Comment:** I strongly disagree with the idea of dropping the wild quota all the way down to 1 in 313. 2 is already too low. You can't do this to us. Park wolves do not need that kind of protection when they leave Yellowstone park.
Hunting District Comment: No comment
Jayce Dorman Billings, MT
109. **Wolf Season Comment:** We need to kill more wolves not less!
Hunting District Comment: Kill more wolves not less!
Levi Seeley lake, MT
110. **Wolf Season Comment:** There are too many wolves, they are far from endangered
Hunting District Comment: There are too many wolves now, they are not endangered
James Vogel Palms, MI
111. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please leave the quota the same or raise it
Hunting District Comment: Please leave quotas the same or raise them
Rob Lowe Billings, MT
112. **Wolf Season Comment:** The wolf quota should not be lowered
Hunting District Comment: I don't think the boundaries should be changed
Taylor Leep Belgrade, MT
113. **Wolf Season Comment:** You are going the wrong direction. Eliminate the season, and offer a bounty. Time to correct an obvious mistake.
Hunting District Comment: You are going the wrong direction. Eliminate the season, and offer a bounty. Time to correct an obvious mistake.

Zach unruh Billings, MT

114. Absolutely a joke. There's way to many wolves in this state and you could up the amount of tags in each of those 2 units and fill them quickly. When you all manage the lion quota and when it fills quickly and add more to the quota, well same should ghb o for wolves. Raise the quota not lower it

Mike Price Whitehall, MT

115. **Wolf Season Comment:** I do not support lowering the limit of grey wolves. They need to be kept in check.

Hunting District Comment: None

Rick schoening Polson, MT

116. Conduct damage hunts to anyone with wolf tags

Roy Speeg Helena, MT

117. **Wolf Season Comment:** Shouldn't be a quota

Hunting District Comment: Shouldn't be boundaries

Scott Lynch Dunn Center, ND

118. **Wolf Season Comment:** Do not change if anything up the wolf quotas and save the elk herd. Please

Hunting District Comment: Leave boundaries alone. Yellowstone has millions of acres it doesn't need a buffer around it.

Bridger Cunningham Emigrant, MT

119. Do not reduce the wolf quota they have been the worse thing to happen to the Yellowstone elk herd in my life time

Kevin Gower Terry, MT

120. **Wolf Season Comment:** Do not lower the wolf quotas, if anything up the harvest numbers. Do not succumb to the wolf watchers as our ranchers suffer. Haven't you done enough to the northern elk herd?

Hunting District Comment: Get rid of the buffers around the park

Tad Brenden Billings, MT

121. Do NOT lower any wolf quotas!

Chris St Germain Lolo, MT

122. **Wolf Season Comment:** More wolf's need shot. year round hunting

Hunting District Comment: Wolf's don't know boundaries of the park . Why should we have boundaries

Kyle tanner West Yellowstone, MT

123. Terrible idea. The elk population is already extremely low and all of the elk are bunched up and on the low lands due to wolf pressure. Fwp should rethink this change.

Mike meredith Helena, MT

124. **Wolf Season Comment:** As the human population grows and more hunters put pressure on the game animals it's disgusting to think that you guys would further lower the Wolf quota in the greater Yellowstone area. Start managing for the people that actually live here and not the anti hunting people that don't!

Hunting District Comment: Save our game animals !!!!

Tyler Vance Bozeman, MT

125. **Wolf Season Comment:** Season should be year round with no bag limit. I don't think your biologists have any idea what is happening to our deer and elk herds in NW Montana. Look close at the numbers going through the check station at Thompson Falls for the last ten years. It's a steady decline and now is not even 10% of what it was just 10 years ago.

Hunting District Comment: There should be no boundaries, and open season year round, just like coyotes.

Brian Smith Trout Creek, MT

126. I have been coming to Montana multiple times/year for years to visit YNP and enjoy the scenic beauty and incredible wildlife that the Park has to offer. In doing so, I spend thousands of dollars every year in the state of Montana enjoying my passion. I thank the FWP Commissioners for their insight and agree with the proposal to decrease the wolf hunt quotas along Yellowstone's borders. There are plenty of other opportunities for hunters to kill wolves in trophy hunts in the rest of the state. WMU's 313 and 316 deserve and should be managed differently. These are wilderness areas, not ranch lands that might put cattle in danger of predation (which we all know happens infrequently). The wolves have much higher value both in esthetics and economics for tourism and research. The wolves also help to manage the elk herds by keeping them healthy. A peer-reviewed study shows that wolves target deer and elk with CWD, a disease that all the western states are worried about. I ask you to please follow through with this reasonable proposal and do not let the pressure from others voicing their negative opinions sway you. Sincerely, LaRita Desimpel

LaRita Desimpel Los Altos, CA

127. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please reduce the wolf population they are wiping out our elk and moose. The days of needing Wolfpack predators are long over. The limited habitat for our elk and moose makes it too easy for wolves to slaughter elk and moose cows during calving.

Hunting District Comment: The last thing wildlife needs in the lower 48 and Canada is "wolf protection". Please consider the facts instead of misinformed humaniac citizen opinion.

Rick Hihath St Joseph, MO

128. **Wolf Season Comment:** The elk herd is really struggling. The sex ratios in the area are way out of wack. There are very few bulls in the area with very poor genetics and also not as many bulls to breed the cows. Wolves hunt the bulls in winter and are decreasing the bull numbers a lot.

Do not need to kill all the wolves because they do have a place in the ecosystem but we do need to manage them to a smaller population to help balance the predator prey numbers.

Hunting District Comment: it would be preferable that we increase the quotas in these areas but at least do not decrease them.

Winston Oppelt Livingston, MT

129. **Wolf Season Comment:** First of why is there even a quota? Why is it that for the most part we only have quotas on predetermining.

Hunting District Comment: I think we need to put non predator species first, and not the ones that eat other wildlife, I think we should up the quota, so that elk can thrive and stay alive!

Ryan Milltown, MT

130. I believe that the wolf quota should be increased not decreased. I wish MTFWP would use sound science.

Andrew J Bauer Livingston, MT

131. **Wolf Season Comment:** Save the elk.

Hunting District Comment: Increase the wolf quotas

Kevin Townsend, MT

132. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please keep the quota the same

Hunting District Comment: Please keep the districts the same

Jacob karnes Gardiner, MT

133. **Wolf Season Comment:** Open season on Wolves 12 months a year.

Hunting District Comment: No boundaries at all.

Mike Bennett Grants Pass, OR

134. **Wolf Season Comment:** Need to give out more wolf tags I remember going to yellow stone before they decided to. Add wolf there and it was so cool seeing all the wild life there...went there a few times last year and only saw wolves and bears and about 10 buffalo

Hunting District Comment: Need to expand and target where there are an over growing rate of wolfs like in yellow stone

Kyle Oleson West haven, UT

135. Everyone who actually lives with these wolves around us is sick and tired of liberal FWP commissioners protecting them. There should be no quotas in 313 or 316. The park boundary is the park boundary!

Jim Darr Gardiner, MT

136. **Wolf Season Comment:** I think if anything the quotas should be raised not lowered. We have too many wolves as it is. They are ruining our elk herds.

Hunting District Comment: The boundaries need to be broadened. We needs more tags and more area to hunt them to keep there population in check

Shania Stringer Butte, MT

137. I bribe the quota needs to be raised to lower the amount of wolves in the whole state.

Justin Holman Bigfork, MT

138. I am opposed to reducing Wolf quota from 2 to 1. This is not supported by a biological reason. It is only a political one. Thank you for considering my comments.

Elaine K Allestad Big Timber, MT

139. **Wolf Season Comment:** What biologist would condone the lowering a wolf quota in an area that elk herd that is depleted to a point that it is almost non-recoverable. Losing the wolf quota is one of the most uneducated decisions I have ever heard and greatly disagree with lowering it.
Hunting District Comment: If anything the boundary needs to be increased to allow more harvesting of wolves.

James Whitescarver Stevensville, MT

140. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316). The deadline for your comment is WEDNESDAY, January 22.

Hunting District Comment: end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park, PERIOD! No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing!

shelley wyndham chambersburg, PA

141. **Wolf Season Comment:** To many wolves not enough elk samples as that. Wolf kill every thing. they are bad should of never let them go this far

Hunting District Comment: Kill all wolves

William Allen Rome, PA

142. **Wolf Season Comment:** Reducing the wolf quota to a mere 1 wolf in wmu 313 and 316 is only pleasing pro wolf groups and does nothing to actually manage wolves in Montana. Wolf impacts on our wildlife have only increased and wolf numbers need to be reduced to help our depleting elk herds and the wildlife in Yellowstone Park.

Hunting District Comment: I'm in favor of larger hunting districts for wolves. The individual districts are small and seem rather unnecessary when they could be grouped together in larger areas.

Justin D Burich Rexford, MT

143. **Wolf Season Comment:** Need to have a season in Wyoming

Hunting District Comment: Limited draw for areas inside Yellowstone. More back counrty areas.

Jim Kotch Cheyenne, WY

144. **Terry Bechtel New enterprise, PA**

145. **Wolf Season Comment:** These regulations are already too strict in region 313. Two wolves out of the whole region isn't nearly enough to properly regulate the population.

Hunting District Comment: Leave it as it is and increase quotas.

Joshua Gallagher Livingston, MT

146. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please make wolf hunting year around sport. The Elk thank you 🐾 🐾

Hunting District Comment: Don't change the Elk thank you 🐾 🐾

James Call Libby, MT

147. **Wolf Season Comment:** To lower the quota is ridiculous! The Northern Elk herd use to be enormous, I understand balance but the wolves are now OVER what was projected, eliminating the herd. The packs that are running the Paradise Valley are taking down hundreds of elk.

Hunting District Comment: Boundaries need to remain the same, if not extended!

Taryn Redmond Livingston, MT

148. Please do not lower the wolf quota in areas 313 & 316.

Jason White Billings, MT

149. FWP Do not decrease wolf quotas for districts 313 and 316 if anything increase them

Ray Eacker Kalispell, MT

150. **Wolf Season Comment:** 313 & 316 wolf seasons need to stay the same or increased. Tourism will eventually lead to extinction of moose and elk in these areas. IF there are fewer and eventually no calves, elk and moose will disappear from the land scape. Please publish the pictures of the entire wolf killing elk to get out the true story about wolves. Thanks

Hunting District Comment: Wolf numbers need to go down. Boundaries are such that wolves don't observe them. Put some in the boundaries of a pen similar to grizzlies and leave it at that.

Duane Westerbuhr Helena, MT

151. **Wolf Season Comment:** Sale more Wolf tags

Hunting District Comment: Open up more boundaries

Wyatt Lodge grass, MT

152. **Wolf Season Comment:** Increase number of tags per person, increase number of tags per state

Hunting District Comment: Extend boundaries of 313, 316.

Timothy Cooper Bozeman, MT

153. **Wolf Season Comment:** There shouldn't be a quota at all. there should be no regulation of feral species in Montana.

Hunting District Comment: There shouldn't be a "district."

Clay Winnett, MT

154. **Wolf Season Comment:** Allow more wolves to be killed not less!

Hunting District Comment: EXPAND THE BOUNDARY

Justin Culbertson, MT

155. **Wolf Season Comment:** Increase the wolf quota

Hunting District Comment: No changes

JR Robison Cody, WY

156. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please do not reduce the quota!

Hunting District Comment: Please make boundaries larger!

Lynn Haerr Livingston, MT

157. **Wolf Season Comment:** Reduce numbers of wolves killed.

Hunting District Comment: Wolves don't understand physical boundaries. Increase the boundary outside the park to allow wolves access. These animals need protection to survive for future generations.

Sue fish Langton, NE

158. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please stop hunting wolves

Hunting District Comment: Please stop destroying wildlife we need are wolves

Lo thomas San Antonio, TX

159. **Hunting District Comment:** I favor reducing the trophy hunting quota in the Montana wolf management units bordering Yellowstone, and support the need for a true buffer zone around the park.

Holland VanDieren Pasadena, CA

160. I support the change in wolf hunting to 100 rather than 200. My son and I just recently visited Yellowstone in early January specifically to see wolves in the wild. It was an incredible experience & we intend to return, hopefully next January. I have been waiting to see wolves in the wild my entire and it was a dream come true (I am 66). It is clear from what we saw that wolves are a natural & important part of the Yellowstone and surrounding ecosystem. We spent a lot of money as well during our time there so tourist dollars are flowing into the area, just to get a glimpse of the misunderstood wolves. We love them and hope that ranches are learning to coexists with the wolves. Thank you.

Theresa Andrews Oakland, CA

161. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am contacting the commission to request the lowest possible quota. I am opposed to wolf hunting and trapping as unethical, and scientifically unfounded.

Hunting District Comment: I am contacting the commission to request the lowest possible quota. I am opposed to wolf hunting and trapping as unethical, and scientifically unfounded.

Kim Pearson Medford, OR

162. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please stop all trapping and hunting in park areas...pleaseeeee.

Hunting District Comment: Please, please do not allow hunting on the Yellowstone borders. I teavel every year there and have gotten to love the wolves, when they get killed by horrible senseless hunting it breaks my heart. They deserve better!!!

Sandra Monville Ontonagon, MI

163. **Wolf Season Comment:** No reduction in quotas. I would also like to see a season that opens March 1 and ends February 28 and change wolf tag price to \$5 dollars.

Hunting District Comment: Every place should be open for wolf hunting except national parks.

Bob pearson Missoula, MT

164. **Wolf Season Comment:** There should not be a wolf hunting season. Wolves are needed in the ecosystem.

Hunting District Comment: There shouldn't be any hunting of wolves in any district. They are needed as part of nature. Science has proven that when you kill wolves the environment suffers. Listen to the science.

Barbara Blackwood Spokane, WA

165. Please do not allow the trophy hunting of any more wolves.

Stephanie Wilson Billings, MT

166. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Hunting District Comment: YES, as proposed, drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Felicia N Trujillo SANTA FE, NM

167. **Wolf Season Comment:** I appreciate and fully approve of the Commissioners proposing to lower the wolf hunt quotas in units 313 and 316 to one wolf in each management area or, for this whole sensitive area to a quota of One.

Hunting District Comment: Thank you

Jane Gage Beaverton, OR

168. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Hunting District Comment: Gladly accept the bone they're tossing if it means saving even one innocent Yellowstone wolf! But that's far from what must be done! Also, insist that the Commission work to end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park, PERIOD! No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing! The current wolf hunting season began September and runs to mid-March. Nine wolves have been killed in those bull sh*t "wolf management" units that border the park. Twenty others have been lost to hunting in another nearby unit. Help stop the madness! #protectparkwolves #parkwolves

lusiana georgescu spring valley, CA

169. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am insisting that the Commission drop the wolf hunt quota along Yellowstone National Park boundary from 4 to 2 wolves units 313 and 316, also The commission needs to work to END ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park. Wolves deserve A safe zone from hunters, these wolves are easy kills so hunters know that they know they can get A easy kill on Park Wolves. No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Please Listen to the many Voices and Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the unjust killing!

Hunting District Comment: I am insisting that the Commission drop the wolf hunt quota along Yellowstone National Park boundary from 4 to 2 wolves units 313 and 316, also The commission needs to work to END ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park. Wolves deserve A safe zone from hunters, these wolves are easy kills so hunters know that they know they can get A easy kill on Park Wolves. No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Please Listen to the many Voices and Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the unjust killing!

connie burris springfield, IL

170. **Wolf Season Comment:** We need to save our wolves they have a right to live Stop the killing an hunting for our children an there children

Hunting District Comment: We need to save our wolves they have a right to live Stop the killing an hunting for our children an there children

Sherie Allen-Winters Forest Grove, MT

171. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please drop the quota for Units 313 and 316 down to two or better yet 0. I do not find it fair that wolves around Yellowstone Park should be hunted as they are habituated to seeing humans due to all the tourism and therefore make an easy target for hunters. I have never yet been to Yellowstone as I do not care for high traffic areas. However, I would love to watch the wolves and so hope to travel to Yellowstone soon. wolf tourism is a big industry for Montana so I hope you will take care of the wolves and stop this insane slaughter.

Hunting District Comment: Please do not allow any hunting of wolves in the districts surrounding Yellowstone. These wolves are treasured by people throughout the world and have become habituated to being watched. They are too vulnerable to hunters and let's face it - they are Yellowstone's biggest draw! It is very unethical to make money off of them and then to slaughter them. Please put an end to this slaughter. Thank you!

Karin Mahuna Colorado Springs, CO

172. **Wolf Season Comment:** This is wilderness area and wolves bring people together to share wonderful true nature experiences and to enjoy these wild areas bringing tourism and good will among them. Montana benefits financially as well. The wolves are also valuable in terms of research. healthy size wolf packs keep a natural order and balance in nature helping other species to thrive as well. Plant and animal kingdom. I love travelling to Montana to enrich my life .

Hunting District Comment: Please protect wolves in this small area of 313 and 316 for continued success of tourism, ecosystems and research.

Lori reale Port angeles, WA

173. **Wolf Season Comment:** Killing wolves is not the answer to wildlife management. Please stop the cruelty of trapping and trophy hunting.

Hunting District Comment: Please do not allow trophy hunting around the Yellowstone border.

Carla Bonetti Missoula, MT

174. We understand you are proposing changing the Wolf hunting quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 that border Yellowstone National Park to one wolf each. We support your proposal and thank you for making it. These areas are wilderness areas and not ranchlands. These areas promote ecotourism. We can say this because we are ecotourists. We returned to Yellowstone to 2012, the first time in 25 years just to see wolves in the wild. We were not disappointed. As a result, we are hooked on wolves and have returned to Montana 10 times since then. We will be back this spring. We stay in Gardiner and spend most of our vacation dollars there. All because you have wolves. We have never failed to see them. We think Yellowstone's wolves are big economic boost for the area, bringing wolf watchers there year round now. The wolves also contribute to a healthier smaller elk population by culling the sick and weak animals making for a more balanced ecosystem for the other species also living in Yellowstone. Montana is a big state. There are plenty of other opportunities for wolf hunters in the state. There were 315 killed across the state in last years season. Reducing the quota by one each in the 313 and 316 areas is not significant to the overall total, but it is very significant to those of us that come to Montana to watch these wolves. The ones we have gotten familiar with have an identity to us. We follow them in daily reports made by local wolf watchers and it is most upsetting to us when one is killed solely for a trophy and local bragging rights. Hunters have killed some of our favorite animals through the years in these two units. This is not our first letter to you. There have been several since the killing of 754M and 832F (the 06 female) in 2012. There are people from all over the world that know when one of the Yellowstone wolves is killed by trophy hunters. We talk with them on the sides of the road in the park each trip. It is not understood why any hunting of Yellowstone wolves is even allowed at all. We would like to see a quota of zero, but know that is not to be. This proposal is a good compromise for all of us in what is a pretty uncompromising world today. We applaud your proposal to cut the quotas in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one and pray it is passed on February 13th. Thank you for considering our input.

John & Deb Zihlman Fort Worth, TX

175. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please do not expand wolf hunting in the greater Yellowstone area. We travel to Montana frequently— and spend our tourist dollars— in order to see living wolves. If the killing expands and kills more wolves that leave the boundary of the park, local merchants will suffer because many of us feel as I do and will no longer visit Montana.

Hunting District Comment: Please ensure that wolf hunting boundaries are far from Yellowstone National Park boundaries so the Yellowstone wolves can safely travel in their range.

Dan Coats Union, WA

176. Please lower the quota of wolves allowed to be killed near Yellowstone. Better yet, stop all wolf killing!

Elizabeth Crosby Deer Harbor, WA

177. I strongly support the commissions' proposal to lower wolf hunt quotas to 1 wolf per unit in hunting units adjacent to Yellowstone National Park - units 313 and 316. I am a resident of hunting unit 313 and a business owner whose livelihood is dependent on regular sightings of healthy wolves in Yellowstone's Northern Range. I am also an avid hunter, and I successfully harvest both deer and elk every year in units 313 and 314. My 13-year old son and I, and the many friends we hunt with, all enjoy seeing wolves and wolf sign while we are out hunting, as it greatly adds fullness to the wilderness hunting experience we are so passionate about. Those who try to blame the wolf for their hunting failures are both lazy and greedy. We all know that wolf packs which reside primarily within Yellowstone National Park often move out of the park in the winter to follow the prey species on which they rely. This corresponds with the long wolf hunting season, and often the wolves that have spent 99% of their lives inside the park with no reason to avoid people are targeted by hateful hunters. Those wolves have been raised in the vicinity of appreciative observing people by trusted pack mates, and have learned no reason to fear or avoid people. There is no way for these wolves to know the differences in jurisdiction across park boundaries. Hunting these puts the hunter at an unfair advantage, and in my opinion, should not be considered fair chase, ethical hunting and should not be permitted at all. Killing wolves that maintain summer territories in the park destabilizes pack structure and compromises hunting capabilities. It has been documented through peer-reviewed research that this destabilization from removal of experienced pack leaders can lead to acts of desperation such as predation on livestock and other human-wolf conflicts. It is not fair to them or to us to put them in that situation, and certainly cannot be justified by any virtue of trophy hunting. Yellowstone wolves hold an incredible value in research, observation and tourism that far outweighs their economic value through trophy hunting. I founded a small local business guiding wildlife watching tours in Yellowstone. I started my business in 2017 with very minimal investment. In just three seasons, I have grown my business to net over \$265,000 and employee five local naturalist guides. Being able to consistently show my guests wild wolves is the backbone of my business success. Wolves are at the top of the list for 98% of my clients. Wolves are the single biggest attraction in the world's most iconic national park. For most of my clients, seeing Yellowstone's wolves is their primary reason for visiting Yellowstone and spending money in the gateway communities of Gardiner and Cooke City-Silver Gate. The hospitality industry in these gateway towns has also grown in response to this unique non-consumptive resource. Many of my clients have returned again and again to watch wolves and stay in these communities, preferring the amenities and character of these Montana towns to that found inside of the park. Wolf watching tourism is YEAR-ROUND and has stabilized the income for many local residents in towns that have traditionally been very seasonal and have struggled with the nature of seasonal employment. The local economic value of wolves alive, not dead, cannot be understated! There is an immense ecological value to wolves as well. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is world-renowned for currently having all of its native mammal species at healthy populations, and wolf recovery here has been a huge component of that. An ecosystem with healthy wolf packs functions on its own, is balanced and is resistant to disease. Wolf predation targets the most vulnerable individuals in a prey population and thus functions as effective control against the spread of infectious diseases. Chronic Wasting Disease should

have the attention of all who truly care about our deer and elk populations. The natural roll that wolves play in reducing the prevalence of this disease has huge implications and should not be overlooked. Could you imagine if CWD wiped out Montana's deer and elk because we were so concerned about predator control that we didn't let them serve their ecological function. That would be disgustingly shortsighted and a disgrace to future Montanans. Please consider the multiple values of wolves in the GYE (intrinsically, economically, and ecologically) and lower the hunting quota to one wolf in each of the units north of Yellowstone National Park. Thank you! Cordially, Sandra Bierle Sandra Bierle Yellowstone Wild, LLC. PO Box 484 Gardiner, MT 59030 (406) 224-0001

Sandra Bierle Gardiner, MT

178. ***Wolf Season Comment:*** I strongly support the commissions' proposal to lower wolf hunt quotas to 1 wolf per unit in hunting units adjacent to Yellowstone National Park - units 313 and 316. I am a resident of hunting unit 313 and a business owner whose livelihood is dependent on regular sightings of healthy wolves in Yellowstone's Northern Range. I am also an avid hunter, and I successfully harvest both deer and elk every year in units 313 and 314. My 13-year old stepson and I, and the many friends we hunt with, all enjoy seeing wolves and wolf sign while we are out hunting, as it greatly adds fullness to the wilderness hunting experience we are so passionate about. Those who try to blame the wolf for their hunting failures are both lazy and greedy. We all know that wolf packs which reside primarily within Yellowstone National Park often move out of the park in the winter to follow the prey species on which they rely. This corresponds with the long wolf hunting season, and often the wolves that have spent 99% of their lives inside the park with no reason to avoid people are targeted by hateful hunters. Those wolves have been raised in the vicinity of appreciative observing people by trusted pack mates, and have learned no reason to fear or avoid people. There is no way for these wolves to know the differences in jurisdiction across park boundaries. Hunting these puts the hunter at an unfair advantage, and in my opinion, should not be considered fair chase, ethical hunting and should not be permitted at all. Killing wolves that maintain summer territories in the park destabilizes pack structure and compromises hunting capabilities. It has been documented through peer-reviewed research that this destabilization from removal of experienced pack leaders can lead to acts of desperation such as predation on livestock and other human-wolf conflicts. It is not fair to them or to us to put them in that situation, and certainly cannot be justified by any virtue of trophy hunting. Yellowstone wolves hold an incredible value in research, observation and tourism that far outweighs their economic value through trophy hunting. I founded a small local business guiding wildlife watching tours in Yellowstone. I started my business in 2017 with very minimal investment. In just three seasons, I have grown my business to net over \$265,000 and employee five local naturalist guides. Being able to consistently show my guests wild wolves is the backbone of my business success. Wolves are at the top of the list for 98% of my clients. Wolves are the single biggest attraction in the world's most iconic national park. For most of my clients, seeing Yellowstone's wolves is their primary reason for visiting Yellowstone and spending money in the gateway communities of Gardiner and Cooke City-Silver Gate. The hospitality industry in these gateway towns has also grown in response to this unique non-consumptive resource. Many of my clients have returned again and again to watch wolves and stay in these communities, preferring the amenities and character of these Montana towns to

that found inside of the park. Wolf watching tourism is YEAR-ROUND and has stabilized the income for many local residents in towns that have traditionally been very seasonal and have struggled with the nature of seasonal employment. The local economic value of wolves alive, not dead, cannot be understated! There is an immense ecological value to wolves as well. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is world-renowned for currently having all of its native mammal species at healthy populations, and wolf recovery here has been a huge component of that. An ecosystem with healthy wolf packs functions on its own, is balanced and is resistant to disease. Wolf predation targets the most vulnerable individuals in a prey population and thus functions as effective control against the spread of infectious diseases. The threat of Chronic Wasting Disease should have the attention of all who truly care about our deer and elk populations. Could you imagine if CWD wiped out Montana's deer and elk because we were so concerned about predator control that we didn't let them serve their ecological function. That would be disgustingly shortsighted and a disgrace to future Montanans. Please consider the multiple values of wolves in the GYE (intrinsically, economically, and ecologically) and lower the hunting quota to one wolf in each of the units north of Yellowstone National Park. Thank you! Cordially, Emil McCain, Owner and Operator Yellowstone Wild, LLC. PO Box 484 Gardiner, MT 59030 (406) 224-0001 info@YellowstoneWildTours.com <https://www.YellowstoneWildTours.com> https://www.instagram.com/yellowstone_wild

Hunting District Comment: I strongly support the commissions' proposal to lower wolf hunt quotas to 1 wolf per unit in hunting units adjacent to Yellowstone National Park - units 313 and 316. I am a resident of hunting unit 313 and a business owner whose livelihood is dependent on regular sightings of healthy wolves in Yellowstone's Northern Range. I am also an avid hunter, and I successfully harvest both deer and elk every year in units 313 and 314. My 13-year old stepson and I, and the many friends we hunt with, all enjoy seeing wolves and wolf sign while we are out hunting, as it greatly adds fullness to the wilderness hunting experience we are so passionate about. Those who try to blame the wolf for their hunting failures are both lazy and greedy. We all know that wolf packs which reside primarily within Yellowstone National Park often move out of the park in the winter to follow the prey species on which they rely. This corresponds with the long wolf hunting season, and often the wolves that have spent 99% of their lives inside the park with no reason to avoid people are targeted by hateful hunters. Those wolves have been raised in the vicinity of appreciative observing people by trusted pack mates, and have learned no reason to fear or avoid people. There is no way for these wolves to know the differences in jurisdiction across park boundaries. Hunting these puts the hunter at an unfair advantage, and in my opinion, should not be considered fair chase, ethical hunting and should not be permitted at all. Killing wolves that maintain summer territories in the park destabilizes pack structure and compromises hunting capabilities. It has been documented through peer-reviewed research that this destabilization from removal of experienced pack leaders can lead to acts of desperation such as predation on livestock and other human-wolf conflicts. It is not fair to them or to us to put them in that situation, and certainly cannot be justified by any virtue of trophy hunting. Yellowstone wolves hold an incredible value in research, observation and tourism that far outweighs their economic value through trophy hunting. I founded a small local business guiding wildlife watching tours in Yellowstone. I started my business in 2017 with very minimal investment. In just three seasons, I have grown my business to net over \$265,000 and employ five local naturalist guides. Being able to consistently show my guests wild wolves is

the backbone of my business success. Wolves are at the top of the list for 98% of my clients. Wolves are the single biggest attraction in the world's most iconic national park. For most of my clients, seeing Yellowstone's wolves is their primary reason for visiting Yellowstone and spending money in the gateway communities of Gardiner and Cooke City-Silver Gate. The hospitality industry in these gateway towns has also grown in response to this unique non-consumptive resource. Many of my clients have returned again and again to watch wolves and stay in these communities, preferring the amenities and character of these Montana towns to that found inside of the park. Wolf watching tourism is YEAR-ROUND and has stabilized the income for many local residents in towns that have traditionally been very seasonal and have struggled with the nature of seasonal employment. The local economic value of wolves alive, not dead, cannot be understated! There is an immense ecological value to wolves as well. The Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem is world-renowned for currently having all of its native mammal species at healthy populations, and wolf recovery here has been a huge component of that. An ecosystem with healthy wolf packs functions on its own, is balanced and is resistant to disease. Wolf predation targets the most vulnerable individuals in a prey population and thus functions as effective control against the spread of infectious diseases. will become regarding the eminent threat of Chronic Wasting Disease should have the attention of all who truly care about our deer and elk populations. Could you imagine if CWD wiped out Montana's deer and elk because we were so concerned about predator control that we didn't let them serve their ecological function. That would be disgustingly shortsighted and a disgrace to future Montanans. Please consider the multiple values of wolves in the GYE (intrinsically, economically, and ecologically) and lower the hunting quota to one wolf in each of the units north of Yellowstone National Park. Thank you! Cordially, Emil McCain, Owner and Operator Yellowstone Wild, LLC. PO Box 484 Gardiner, MT 59030 (406) 224-0001 info@YellowstoneWildTours.com <https://www.YellowstoneWildTours.com> https://www.instagram.com/yellowstone_wild

Emil McCain Gardiner, MT

179. Yes, drop the quota to the minimum in units 313 and 316. Work with the legislature to end wolf hunts entirely along the park boundarty. Allowing legal take of park wolves is a public relations disaster that makes zero economic sense. If a park wolf becomes a problem, control it but otherwise end the trophy and hate hunts near the park. Thanks.

A Povilitis Bozeman, MT

180. **Wolf Season Comment:** Save the Yellowstone wolves. I just got back from your state to go see wolves in the wild. I spent a lot of money in your state in doing that. I don't think you want to diminish that opportunity for your state and its tax payers.

Hunting District Comment: See above. If you don't draw reasonable boundaries that will protect these wolves, you will lose a lot of money in the process.

Joe Hemming Beverly Hills, MI

181. **Wolf Season Comment:** Stop all predator hunts

Hunting District Comment: Stop this

Susan Pappalardo Little Egg Harbor, NJ

182. **Wolf Season Comment:** Thank you for your work on ensuring wolf populations stay healthy, diverse and strong. I am in favor of your limiting wolf hunting around the Yellowstone area
Hunting District Comment: I am in favor of the boundaries protecting wolves
Siri Gilliland Bozeman, MT
183. The economic impact of wolf watching and the environmental impact of vibrant wolf packs in and around the park is far more important than allowing the taking of one or two more animals near the park. I strongly support the reduction in quota in areas near the park.
Lance Gilliland Houston, TX
184. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolf hunting is totally unnecessary as wolves regulate their own population naturally. Let the wolves be
Hunting District Comment: Do away with wolf hunting.
Andrew D Gray METHUEN, MA
185. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower the hunting quota! I love wildlife and we need the wolves. Also ban trapping.
Hunting District Comment: Decrease the boundaries. Lower hunting quotas. Ban trapping
Stephanie Missoula, MT
186. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please stop the wolf trophy hunt, especially in areas surrounding Yellowstone National Park.
Hunting District Comment: Please stop ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park.
Dyan Conroe, TX
187. **Wolf Season Comment:** do not like the changes
Hunting District Comment: no more killing
sara sang los angeles, CA
188. **Wolf Season Comment:** I want the quota to be zero. There should be no hunting in a boundary around the national park for numerous reasons.
Hunting District Comment: There should be a safe boundary around the national park. The death of collared wolves in these areas has been very hurtful to many.
Debi Styles Billings, MT
189. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please reduce the trophy hunting quota in the Montana wolf management units bordering Yellowstone! Introduce a true buffer zone around the park, wolves need protection in the entire area bordering Yellowstone, as well !
Hunting District Comment: Please reduce the trophy hunting quota in the Montana wolf management units bordering Yellowstone! Introduce a true buffer zone around the park, wolves need protection in the entire area bordering Yellowstone, as well !
Sudeshna Ghosh Jefferson, LA

190. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please reduce the trophy hunting quota in the Montana wolf management units bordering Yellowstone! Introduce a true buffer zone around the park, wolves need protection in the entire area bordering Yellowstone, as well !

Hunting District Comment: For a true buffer zone for wolves!

Anna Brewer Phoenix, AZ

191. **Wolf Season Comment:** In the 19th century, we devoted our best minds to exploring nature. In the 20th century, we devoted ourselves to controlling and harnessing it. In the 21st century we must devote ourselves to restoring it. -Stephen E. Ambrose

Hunting District Comment: Nature should not be restricted to human boundaries. Let it live. We will all benefit from a living Earth.

Marije terEllen Denver, CO

192. **Wolf Season Comment:** Montana Wildlife Commission: YES, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316). Looking at the final bar graph, Poaching is the main cause of wolf kills in USA by a ration of about 6 poaching kills to every 1 legal kill...this must be stopped by stronger laws and enforcement in each region and Federally to protect the remaining wolves in the USA, which will also keep better control on chronic wasting disease and other diseases in deer and other ungulate herds, improving herds' health and survival....<https://www.raincoast.org/2018/04/mismeasured-mortality-correcting-estimates-of-wolf-poaching-in-the-united-states/>

Hunting District Comment: Please work to end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park! No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing! The current wolf hunting season began September and runs to mid-March. Nine wolves have been killed in “wolf management” units that border the park. Twenty others have been lost to hunting in another nearby unit. Stop killing Wolves in or near Public Lands in the USA, with Care2 signers 8,838 (expired), and a new petition with Changedotorg at 3335: <https://www.change.org/p/no-killing-wolves-on-near-public-lands-federal-state-parks-blm-in-usa>

lawrence scrima Aurora, CO

193. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please reduce the quota of wolves that may be shot in regions 313 and 316 from 4 to 2, or even lower.

Hunting District Comment: Please consider a total buffer zone around park boundaries to protect national park wolves who aren't used to being hunted. Such wolves may stray into dangerous territory where they could be killed because they aren't used to being shot at by humans.

Marian Elizabeth Hennings Spokane, WA

194. **Wolf Season Comment:** PLEASE, as proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Hunting District Comment: PLEASE, as proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Sheri Pennington Parker, CO

195. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Hunting District Comment: End all wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park. As you know, trapping should be illegal. Its cruel and pointless.

Glenn Graham Redwood City, CA

196. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves are critical and it is tragic the average wolf age in Montana is only 3. They have no way to learn from elders. Please reduce the numbers hunted.

Hunting District Comment: Reduce your boundaries!

Tara Russell Arvada, CO

197. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316)

Hunting District Comment: Please work to end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park, PERIOD! No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing!

Lisa Sulock Edmonds, WA

198. I support the proposed reduction in wolf harvest quotas in WMU 313 Gardiner and WMU 316 Absaroka. As a resident of Silver Gate, I support the protection of wolves by state regulators.

Elizabeth Wessells Silver Gate, MT

199. **Wolf Season Comment:** Wolves support the ecosystem.

Hunting District Comment: Wolves support the ecosystem.

Lynda Goin Edmonds, WA

200. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please limit the wolves that can be taken from 4 down to 2 in 313-316 and work toward ending the killing of wolves. The season should be set so that wolves with young are not killed.

Hunting District Comment: Please end the wolf killing near yellowstone. These beautiful animals need to be protected when they get off the park.

Scott Thomas Johnson Sheridan, WY

201. **Wolf Season Comment:** Running the wolf hunting season thru mid March puts pups at risk of losing one or both of their parents, which would cause imminent death. Shortening the season would be the most humane approach for this species.

Hunting District Comment: Quotas should be dropped around the park as certain wolves are at a disadvantage due to becoming habituated to human contact.

Heidi Briggs MERIDIAN, ID

202. Please reduce the number of wolves killed during the 2020-2021 to zero.

Judy Lehmberg Gardiner, MT

203. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please drop the hunting quota of wolves along the Yellowstone boundary from 4 to 2.

Hunting District Comment: End all wolf trophy hunting & trapping near Yellowstone.

Diane Lang Seattle, WA

204. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please ban trophy hunting, trapping, and snares used to torture, and murder wolves. Murdering these iconic, majestic creatures is extremely wrong. The bio diversity of animals, and wildlife is important. Humans are murdering wildlife for sport, which is a symptom of mental illness, such as a psychopath, etc. Anyone that can murder an animal, not for necessary food, needs to have a brain adjustment. Stop murdering the wolves, that are now in danger, due to so many trophy hunters, being allowed to murder these innocent, warm blooded animals, that want to live. They feel pain just as humans do. They have feelings and emotions, just as humans do. This is proven in scientific journals. These animals have loved ones, and bond with other wolves, in their pack. Why can not humans admire them, and learn from them, instead of murdering them. The majority of people want to view the wolves, and photograph them, if possible. Wolves bring in more tourist dollars then a trophy hunter. If monetary funds, are more important for Montana, then wolves should be kept alive at all costs. The majority of humans, do not want them murdered to extinction. Stop this insane cruelty and murder of wolves. Please set an example for other states to follow.

Hunting District Comment: See above The same comment applies for boundaries as above statement. Wolves do not know boundaries. No murder of wolves. These sick and cruel people need to go to rehab and be rehabilitated.

Nancy Telese Palm Beach, FL

205. **Wolf Season Comment:** Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners, I am proud to support your position of reducing the wolf-hunt quotas along Yellowstone's border. You are wise to allow wolves to roam, mostly undisturbed, in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316. This proposed adjustment demonstrates your more careful understanding of wildlife protection and further shows willingness to support viable habitat for animals entrusted to your care. How admirable! Providing this accommodation is necessary, I believe, for sustaining a healthy and viable wolf population and I firmly support your proposal. Kind regards, Rosemary

Hunting District Comment: Dear Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commissioners, I am proud to support your position of reducing the wolf-hunt quotas along Yellowstone's border. You are wise to allow wolves to roam, mostly undisturbed, in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316. This proposed adjustment demonstrates your more careful understanding of wildlife protection and further shows willingness to support viable habitat for animals entrusted to your care. How admirable! Providing this accommodation is necessary, I believe, for sustaining a healthy and viable wolf population and I firmly support your proposal. Kind regards, Rosemary

Rosemary Conner Denver, CO

206. **Wolf Season Comment:** I have been monitoring the CWD reports in MT and WY. Now that the prion disease has jumped to another species, ie Moose, you need all the help you can get in keeping the ungulates from congregating together. You need all the wolves you can get.

Hunting District Comment: Why aren't you testing the ungulates in the wolfpack areas of YNP? You know that the prion disease is less there. Prion diseases have jumped to humans. CWD, in wildlife is same as madcow in Bovines, and CJD in people. Stop risking lives, and use the wolves in dispersing the ungulates !

Debra Taylor Denver, CO

207. Reducing the tale from 4 to 2 is at least going in the right direction. It makes no sense to the 35 million dollars spent each year to see wolves when you are allowing them to be killed right outside the park.

Michael Folks Atlanta, GA

208. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please do not extend the hunting season any further. Hunting denning wolves or pregnant females often causes a huge disruption in wolf pack stability and may lead to additional depredation events when knowledgeable adult pack members are lost during this delicate time of the year.

Hunting District Comment: Dear Commissioners, Please drop the proposed wolf quote along Yellowstone's border from 4 to 2. As a Yellowstone Wildlife Guide and Naturalist, I would prefer a complete ban on hunting along this border, but a reduction in loss means an important member of the local ecology and economic vitality of the gateway communities could be preserved. Thank you

Shauna Baron Gardiner, MT

209. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Hunting District Comment: Please end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park, PERIOD! No more dead national park wolves because of state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing!

Lauren Schoneck Denver, CO

210. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am not from the US. I live in Ontario but I believe that wild animals should be able to live their live in the wild unmolested. I am completely against trophy hunting. Wolves serve a purpose in the wild and they are an integral part of nature and in keeping the balance of nature in check. Hunting only serves the egocentric nature of people who care nothing for the lives of animals.

Hunting District Comment: There must be a huge buffer zone for these animals as they cannot understand arbitrary boundaries. Hunting an animal with a high powered rifle is not a hunt. It is simply murder. There is no purpose served in killing these majestic animals.

judith goldberg Richmond Hill, AZ

211. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please lower quotas along YNP border. I travel several times a year to see these wolves. I used to stay each time in Silver Gate and Cooke City. I hiked trails off of Bannock toward Republic mtn frequently. I could no longer bring myself to stay there once 926F was killed. I followed her and her pack for years, and suddenly she was stolen from me and so many others who cherished her. I have not spent a penny in silver gate or Cooke City since then. I stay in Gardiner and only spend money in wolf friendly establishments. So change your quotas, or loose all of my vacation dollars. And certainly the dollars of many more purple like me.

Hunting District Comment: Please lower quotas along YNP border. I travel several times a year to see these wolves. I used to stay each time in Silver Gate and Cooke City. I hiked trails off of Bannock toward Republic mtn frequently. I could no longer bring myself to stay there once 926F was killed. I followed her and her pack for years, and suddenly she was stolen from me and so many others who cherished her. I have not spent a penny in silver gate or Cooke City since then. I stay in Gardiner and only spend money in wolf friendly establishments. So change your quotas, or loose all of my vacation dollars. And certainly the dollars of many more purple like me.

Sherry Glenn Honey Brook, PA

212. **Hunting District Comment:** Please provide a buffer to the boundaries to better protect wolves. More respect for wildlife benefits our nation. It's proven that they regenerate the areas around rivers by keeping the deer moving. They also increase tourism which boosts the economy. However, the greatest benefit is provided to future generations to respect life in all its forms, Warmest regards, Karen Wilson M.Ed (Elementary Educator)

Karen Wilson Dayton, OH

213. I very much agree with the proposal to lower the wolf hunt quota to one wolf in unit 313 and unit 316. Wolves in these areas are valuable for tourism and research. I go to Yellowstone Park primarily to view wolves. Wildlife watching, and for me particularly wolf watching, brings myself and others to Montana, a big boost for the Montana economy. For many reasons I feel that this small area, 313 and 316, should be managed differently than the rest of the states hunting units.

Maryanne T Roth Roy, WA

214. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a regular visitor to YNP and to the state of Montana, I wish to add my support for the Commissioner's amended proposals for the 2020-2021 Wolf Hunting Season changes. The changes seem very reasonable.

Hunting District Comment: I also support the proposed 2020-2021 Wolf Hunting District Boundaries as proposed by the Commissioners.

Jett Conner Denver, CO

215. **Wolf Season Comment:** Do not allow any wolves to be hunted along the boarder and within 50 miles of Yellowstone National Park. Park wolves are vital to the health of the park and are also vital to the economy of the surrounding area.

Hunting District Comment: Eliminate all wolf killing within 50 miles of park boundaries.

Dan Styles Billings, MT

216. **Wolf Season Comment:** PLEASE !! drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along that portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316) as proposed

Hunting District Comment: This is our public lands and the wildlife we pay to protect by our tax dollars should be held more valuable than a trophy "harvest" for an individual.

Kat Malstead Estacada, OR

217. I am in favor of lowering the quota of wolves "harvested" in Units 313 and 316 to (1) in each. I've heard that it was originally going to be 5. That's way over the top as it is likely that all of the wolves killed in those units come from YNP. The wolf population in the park has stabilized at around 100. The YNP wolves don't seem to get in trouble even when they leave the park. They follow the elk herds, helping to regulate their numbers. Wolves attract visitors who want to see them, helping the local economy. It seems unnecessary to even have a hunt in those units, however, it seems unlikely that the hunt will end in those units, so limiting it to (1) in each is acceptable. Thanks.

Wayne Sielaff Livingston, MT

218. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please cut the number of wolves from 4 to 2 by yellowstone

Hunting District Comment: Stay away from the buffer zone completely. Too many people come to watch the wolves. It is not safe to kill them around the park...why?

Bonnie toadvyn Hoboken, NJ

219. First, let me say that I have attended MTFWP meetings in the past, when wolf hunting quotas have been discussed, and for those of us supporting low wolf quotas, the intimidation factor is quite real. So, this year, in lieu of attending in person, I'm writing to support lowering the wolf quotas for Units 313 and 316 to "one wolf" each. Considering that in all other units a hunter can take five wolves with one elk tag, I think it's a no-brainer to protect the YNP wolves. Wolves support the local economy, encourage tourism, and play a vital part in managing ungulate populations. I understand that last year, 37% of MT's wolves were killed during the annual hunt, while the goal was only 29%. I also heard that in Paradise Valley, north of YNP, the number of wolves killed was close to 50% (I've also heard 58%). As a local, I have heard many local hunters bragging on "gutting" wolves for fun, meaning they gut-shoot them, leaving them to die a lingering death. I believe that by maintaining a low hunt quota for these two units close to YNP, it does send a message that wolves matter and deserve to be on the landscape. There is a lot of support for lowering the quotas in Units 313 & 316. Please listen to us. Thank you very much.

Vicki Sielaff Livingston, MT

220. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a frequent visitor to Yellowstone, I come to see the wolf packs and grizzlies. Tourists spend about 35 million dollars to see wildlife. I want to see the wolves that I have come to know well, alive!

Hunting District Comment: Move the boundaries around the park a hundred miles out this year and then, to Canada next year!

Karen Munoz Rochester, MN

221. Please reduce to 1

Bonnie Quinn Arnold, MD

222. **Wolf Season Comment:** DROP wolf quota from 4 to 2 as proposed. Better yet, STOP the hunting!

Hunting District Comment: STOP ALL TROPHY HUNTING AND TRAPPING OF WOLVES near or around Yellowstone National Park!

S. Vardeman Burleson, TX

223. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 0 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316). Yellowstone was the primary beneficiary in our will until all these hunts started. We're done supporting what turns out to be no better than a controlled hunting ground for trophy-hunters and poachers just outside the park boundaries. Please rethink this.

Hunting District Comment: End wolf hunts. Ecosystems need Apex Predators and Keystones species--yes, even to help hunters have enough game to hunt. Nature's clever that way, smarter than us thankfully. Please give a voice to these essential animals.

Gail Helfer Sedona, AZ

224. **Wolf Season Comment:** Montana Wildlife commissioners, PLEASE DROP the hunting quota of wolves along the portion of the Yellowstone Park Boundary from 4 to 2 or none at all. We all come to the Park to see wolves in the wild..

Hunting District Comment: Hunt units 313 & 316.

Deb Reis Cincinnati, OH

225. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please have the Commission work to end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park, PERIOD! No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing

Hunting District Comment: As proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Rhea Carver Meridian, ID

226. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the reduction of the quota for wolf hunting in districts 313 and 316 from 2 wolves to 1 wolf. Actually, I believe the quotas in these two districts should be 0.

Hunting District Comment: According to these documents, "12. 2020/2021 Wolf Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries. Cover Sheet - Amended.Comment on 2020/2021 Wolf Hunting Seasons and Hunting District Boundaries" no changes are proposed in wolf district boundaries.

Dr Rin Porter Bloomington, MN

227. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support lowering the number of wolves that can be killed in hunting district 313 & 316 from 4 to 2.

Hunting District Comment: District I firmly believe that the hunting districts that border the National park should not allow for trophy hunting. The wildlife that were born in the park & become habituated to humans should not be shot when they cross an invisible boundary.

Linda Sandman Clancy, MT

228. **Wolf Season Comment:** I like a lot of Tennesseans come to Yellowstone and spend lots of money in MT because we can see wild wolves there. We have elk in the Southeast but not wolves.

Hunting District Comment: I would like to see wolf hunting ended in all districts around the park but any reduction is greatly appreciated.

David Hand Nashville, TN

229. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the proposed amendment to reduce the quota of wolves killed along YNP boundaries. These animals represent the wild that so many Americans value. In fact, the park wolves belong to all of us.

Hunting District Comment: The reintroduction of wolves to YNP is a true conservation success story and wolf watchers from around the world contribute to local economies. No wolf hunts should be allowed at park boundaries.

Leslie Colley El Rancho, NM

230. **Wolf Season Comment:** As someone who visits Yellowstone yearly to fish and watch wildlife I wish for you to either lower the quota or eliminate altogether hunting of wolves.

Hunting District Comment: Please consider eliminating wolf hunting altogether from any hunting district boundaries surrounding Yellowstone as these wolves are habituated

William Lehmann Ann Arbor, MI

231. Stop wolf hunting in Yellowstone! We will boycott you as a tourist country for your horrible decision of killing wolves in their natural habitat! And you should also be ashamed of using traps! Trapping belongs to the middle age! We didn't know you were still that barbaric!

Anne-Grethe Michaelsen Norway, AL

232. **Wolf Season Comment:** Save the apex predators, or we will follow them to the grave. Ban all hunting and trapping.

Hunting District Comment: No place on earth

Lynn Rogers Bellevue, WA

233. **Wolf Season Comment:** I hope the commission continues to work to END all trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park. Please protect our national park wolves!

Hunting District Comment: Yes..I am favor and support the proposed drop in the hunting quota for districts 313 and 316

Joyce Haxton Grayling, MI

234. **Wolf Season Comment:** As proposed, drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316). In fact, the

Commission should work to end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park, PERIOD! No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing!

Hunting District Comment: The Commission should work to end ALL wolf trophy hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park, PERIOD! No more dead national park wolves because of brutish state politics and grossly unethical hunting! Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, stop the killing!

Rachel Toner Laramie, WY

235. **Wolf Season Comment:** Lower the quota on the border

Hunting District Comment: A buffer zone around the park is needed.

Marvin Forquer Billings, MT

236. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please drop the quota of wolves taken along park boundaries from 4-2, as proposed. And consider closing wolf hunting along park boundaries totally in the future. They're far more valuable alive.

Hunting District Comment: As proposed, please drop the quota in hunt units 313 & 316 from 4 to 2. And consider ending all wolf hunting in units bordering the park in the future.

Melissa Bahleda Bozeman, MT

237. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Hunting District Comment: Again, YES, as proposed, drop the hunting "quota" of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Leslie Abrahams Gosling Long Beach, CA

238. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please eliminate all wolf hunting near the border of national parks. Wolves need a buffer zone

Hunting District Comment: The state of Montana needs more wolves to help reduce disease among deer and elk.

Charles seymour Denver, CO

239. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please stop all killing of wolves near the YNP boundaries. It is immoral and nonsensical economically.

Hunting District Comment: Killing of wolves near the YNP boundaries is unethical. No animal should be killed for a trophy. It is also questionable from an economic standpoint.

Jeffrey White Alexandria, VA

240. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please stop killing wolves Lower at the least.

Hunting District Comment: Please stop killing wolves . Lower at the least.

Charlie Osborne Alna, CO

241. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a Wyoming native who resides very near to Yellowstone Park, I would like to encourage the Montana Wildlife Commission to shorten the wolf hunting season.

Hunting District Comment: As a Wyoming native who resides very near to Yellowstone Park, I would like to encourage the Montana Wildlife Commission to drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316).

Anne Toner Powell, WY

242. **Wolf Season Comment:** Let's give park wolves a chance. Zero wolf hunting in units next to Yellowstone National Park within 20 miles of the park. Make hunting more ethical towards habituated park wolves!

Hunting District Comment: Zero any quotas within 20 miles of Yellowstone National Park! Make this season ethical and fair for park wolves.

Dusti Becker Bozeman, MT

243. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, drop quota from 4 to 2 as proposed along the boundaries of Yellowstone National Park i.e. unit 313 and 316

Hunting District Comment: Please work to end ALL wolf hunting and trapping along the YNP boundaries

Ian Courts Evergreen, CO

244. We would like you to know we agree with the proposed lower wolf hunt quotas to 1-one in each Wolf Management Unit 313 & 316. These hunting units are wilderness area, not ranch lands and wolves are valued for tourism and research. The wolves were reinstated in 1995 and it has been proven that wolves manage elk, keeping the herds healthy. For instance, wolves target elk and deer with chronic wasting disease. Also, the song birds, beaver, otter, deer, pronghorn, sheep and plants that were depleted have returned to help balance the ecosystem. There is plenty of opportunity for hunters to kill wolves in the rest of Montana and this small protected area of 313 & 316 should be managed differently with tourism and wolf research as priorities. Many people go to Yellowstone National Park to view the wolves. If there are no wolves, people will not be returning to the park. Montana's economy depends on wildlife watching, especially wolves. Thank you for taking our concerns into consideration.

Larry & Linda Rabe Toppenish, WA

245. Yes, as proposed, drop the hunting quota of wolves along the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (for example units 313 and 316...I think I have these unit numbers correct, but not certain). Although I'd prefer there be no hunting along the park boundaries. I know of too many trophy hunters who claim they hunt in these areas specifically to kill Yellowstone wolves.

Mica Costerousse Seeley Lake, MT

246. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316). Or better yet, drop it to 0 to allow wolves to replenish in numbers and fulfill their vital role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem as an apex predator. Ideally the Commission should work to end ALL wolf trophy

hunting and trapping near Yellowstone National Park. Respect wildlife tourists and our park wolves, please stop the killing

Hunting District Comment: Killing wolves a step outside a boundary, while it may be legal, is just a douche move. Be better. Leave wolves alone. If I have to leave a comment about boundaries, the bigger the buffer boundary around the park border, the better. Maybe try putting down your gun and picking up a camera

Paula Keisler St Charles, IL

247. **Wolf Season Comment:** The changes are not enough, I would prefer No Hunts near the Yellowstone Park boundaries

Hunting District Comment: Drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2

Randy Haugen Decorah, IA

248. **Wolf Season Comment:** YES, as proposed, drop the hunting “quota” of wolves along a portion of the Yellowstone Park boundary from 4 to 2 (i.e., hunt units 313 and 316)

Hunting District Comment: Same as above! Thank you!

Lindsey H Red Lodge, MT

249. Stop killing the wild life. I will not spend a dime in a state that does this.

Bonny Traugher Lafayette, TN

250. **Wolf Season Comment:** I am against changing the wolf quota from 2 wolves to one wolf in areas 316 and 313

Hunting District Comment: We need to set wolf hunting boundaries to liberalize wolf harvest in the state of Montana

Lawrence Allestad Big timber, MT

251. **Wolf Season Comment:** I disagree with taking wolf tag opportunity away.

Hunting District Comment: We need to liberalize wolf hunting opportunity
Cameron Mayo Big Timber, MT

252. **Wolf Season Comment:** Our landscape has been raped and pillaged on account of the wolves. We need more opportunities to harvest wolves on the Yellowstone park boundary

Hunting District Comment: The wolf hunting district boundaries need to be set to optimize wolf harvest

lonny mayo Big timber, MT

253. I support the Commission's proposal to reduce the wolf harvest quota in WMU 313 from 2 to 1, and in WMU 316 from 2 to 1.

Gary Wolfe Missoula, MT

254. **Wolf Season Comment:** I would love to see no wolves being hunted around Yellowstone but since that seems impossible at the moment I hope the “quota” is reduced to 1. These are

precious animals that many people come to see in this area and allowing them to be hunted at all is disgusting.

Hunting District Comment: As many Yellowstone wolves like the beloved 926 pass over the invisible line to 316 boundaries please consider limited your “harvest “ to the proposed 1 so more Yellowstone wolves are not slaughtered.

Barbara Bland Bozeman, MT

255. I do not support the reduction from 2 to 1

Sam Crosby Arcadia, OK

256. **Wolf Season Comment:** I do not support wolf hunting season changes, particularly reductions in wolves that can be harvested

Hunting District Comment: I do not support boundary changes

Donald L Stewart Olalla, WA

257. Please decrease the wolf hunting in Units 313 and 316 from 2 wolves to 1. These Units border the Park and are a threat to Yellowstone wolves

Karin Occhialini Jardine, MT

258. I support changing the quota in both 313 & 316 to 1 wolf each. The value of ecotourism is huge for both these districts, also lowering the quota would assist in public perceptions of wolf management in Montana. As the last few years have been detrimental to public perception due to the killing of highly visible and habituated wolves. I believe this can only better tensions between different stakeholders and being to light the value of mega carnivores such as wolves and bears and the economic value that they can bring to these small communities.

Lianna ferguson Bozeman, MT

259. **Wolf Season Comment:** Units 313 and 316 should be reduced to a quota of 1 wolf each. Unit 310 should have a quota put on it of 2 wolves. This area is vital to the wolf populations of at least Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming as it is a large, vibrant source population. Additionally, wolf tourism brings in tens of millions of dollars to the state each year and should be more protected for these businesses.

Hunting District Comment: No comment.

Ellen Brandell Bozeman, MT

260. wolves should be listed as a PREDATOR and not a game animal

jonathan smith rexford, MT

261. Hi there, I was just in Yellowstone National Park this month and we saw two local wolf packs. It was one of the greatest experiences I have had in my life so far and I am only twenty-five years old. Therefore, I truly hope you will lower the wolf hunting quota, for they are such majestic, magical animals. I know some people do not like them but the majority of people come from all over the country and the world, including myself and my relatives in Missoula, to see them alive in the wild and that should already be an incentive to do so. Additionally,

ecosystems like Yellowstone cannot remain balanced without them. For the sake of these social canines, their habitats and the people that come from all over to see them alive, which stimulates your state's economy, please lower the wolf hunting quota. Thank you so much for your consideration, August Andrews

August Andrews Oakland, CA

262. **Wolf Season Comment:** I think that there should be no license to hunt a wolf they are predators and you do not eat them they should be hunted with no limit, like a coyote or fox
Hunting District Comment: Same as above statement, take them off the license program, with no limit and no quota just like a coyote or fox

Timothy Eriksen Helena, MT

263. **Wolf Season Comment:** No wolf hunting in districts near Yellowstone NP is best, but the decrease proposed is a start.

Hunting District Comment: No hunting boundaries around Yellowstone NP should be extended.

Cynthia Coulter Cooke city, MT

264. Their should not be a set season on wolves they are predators and should be treated as so. Open year round for hunting. As far as trapping we need longer seasons. Open in September and closed in April at least.

Devon Miller Trego, MT

265. In reviewing the changes to the 2020-2021 wolf hunting season, I would like to thank you commission members for your proposal to lower the quota in Units 313 and 316 to one wolf harvest for the season. I totally agree with your proposal. These two units border Yellowstone and it is a corridor that the YNP wolves do use. By reducing the quota to one, it is a excellent show of support for the economic benefits that the local communities that are close to the park do receive from the visitors to Yellowstone to see the gray wolf. The units are located in federal wilderness area which is habitat of the wolf and not private land ownership. At the present time Chronic Wasting disease is spreading and one of the main front line way of stopping CWD is allowing the wolf to play their role in taking out the unhealthy elk and deer that are infected with CWD. Thank you for your consideration of adjusting and changing the harvest quota in Units 313 and 316. This is a great step forward in better public relations with the many visitors to Yellowstone and your state!!!!

Paula Ozzello Trinidad, CO

266. I support reducing the wolf harvest quota in WMU 313 from 2 to 1 and in WMU 316 from 2 to 1.

Marty Bautel Traverse City, MI

267. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please reduce the harvest quota of wolves in WMU 313 and WMU 316 from 2 to 1

Hunting District Comment: Please reduce the harvest quota of wolves in WMU 313 and WMU 316 from 2 to 1 Please consider moving the invisible boundary from the National Park to the

National Forest further from the Park to reduce the risk of park wolves being taken in the hunt if at all possible!

Kayla Cortez Geary, OK

268. **Hunting District Comment:** I support the reduction in quota for WMU 313 and 316 down to 1. I travel to MT and spend a good deal of money in the state to watch wolves. These WMUs are on the boundary of YNP and park wolves routinely cross into them and are killed. This is detrimental to both tourist revenue and to the packs which are viewed by hundreds of thousands of tourists. Please reduce the quota.

Tracy Arthur Jacksonville, FL

269. I am writing to show my full support in the proposed changes that would reduce the quota in wolf management Units 313 and 316 from 2 to 1 wolf per unit. These two units border Yellowstone National Park and more than likely it will be a Yellowstone wolf that is taken in either unit. Senator Mike Phillips pointed out that 37 Yellowstone wolves have been killed since wolf hunting became legal. Of those 37 wolves, 30 have been killed in Units 313 and 316. Wolves that live most of their lives protected and somewhat habituated inside the park shouldn't be sentenced to death for following their food source outside an invisible line that they do not know exists. Hunters have a whole state to hunt wolves and lowering the quota in these two units would only mean two less wolves will be killed in theory. I say that because Unit 313 has actually been over quota kills for several years. I know Montana law does not allow a buffer zone around Yellowstone, so I will definitely be grateful for the lowered minimum quota of 1. If it saves two Yellowstone wolves per year then I am grateful for that as well. My heart broke when I heard 926F was killed in Unit 316. I have been going to Yellowstone since 2014 to specifically see wolves and bears. I have watched these wolves personally and via social media everyday since my 2014 trip. They have become a part of my life. If we keep losing the wolves that we have come to know and love inside the park then it gives us no reason to keep going back to Yellowstone National Park. I travel from Texas every summer, and I always choose Cooke City/Silvergate to stay in. This last summer (2019) was very hard to spend my money there knowing that's where 926F was killed. However, I did stay and I will again this summer and the summer after that. Just because I hunt wolves with a camera instead of a rifle shouldn't devalue my non consumptive contributions to towns that specifically sit in these two units. I promise I pay more for my summer stay than many tags that are purchased. I love your state and I love watching wolves in Yellowstone. I ask you to please move forward with the proposed decrease in wolf quotas in WMU 313 and WMU 316. Thank you so much.

Christy Chaney Abilene, TX

270. **Wolf Season Comment:** I live and work in Silver Gate every summer and I support the quota change from two wolves to one wolf. Thank you.

Hunting District Comment: I live and work in Silver Gate every summer and I support the quota change from two wolves to one wolf. Thank you.

Eilish Palmer Conway, AR

271. **Wolf Season Comment:** I agree with the FWP proposal to limit the season to one wolf. This is a reduction from two.

Hunting District Comment: There needs to be a safe zone (no hunting or firearm discharges) in Silver Gate meaning 400 yards on either side of Highway 212. Exceptions are clear and present threat to humans.

Mike Menzel Silver Gate, MT

272. **Wolf Season Comment:** I support the lowering of wolf take quotas and would prefer 0 wolf take

Hunting District Comment: I would support no wolf hunting in and around the Cooke City and Silver Gate Montana area.

Tom Nelson Billings and Silver Gate, MT

273. **Wolf Season Comment:** WMU 313 and 316 reduced to one, we fully support.

Hunting District Comment: N/A

Paulette and Ray Attie Brimley, MI

274. I am opposed to the reduction of the bag limit on wolfs, because as time go on, I notice that the deer population in the higher elevations seems to be greatly diminishing, while at the same time , wolf tracks are now everywhere; in the woods, trails, and roads. Surely this is not coincidence and not only limited to the deer population. Steve Elenberger

Stephen and Kathleen Elenberger Eureka, MT

275. 1 -2. And not alphas

Cindy rogers AR

276. **Wolf Season Comment:** As a 21 year resident of Silver Gate, I am in full support of this reduction of the WMU from 2 to 1. The killing of the YNP Wolf in Nov 2018 had adverse effects on my business despite my support of wolves in general.

Hunting District Comment: Our petition to MT FWP to create a safety zone around Silver Gate, if passed, would have accomplished the same goals without impacting the entire hunting district.... and would have made Silver Gate a safer place for tourists in the fall/winter.

Greg Shifflett Silver Gate, MT

277. I am very much in favor of reducing the quota in WMU 316 and 313 from 2 down to 1. As a resident of WMU 316, it would be my preference that the number be reduced to zero. I run a vacation rental home and the negative repercussions from the hunting of the wolf here in 2018 were huge. Thank you.

Julie Warren Silver Gate, MT

278. **Wolf Season Comment:** My wife and I visit Yellowstone every year and have done for 15 years. The central reason we visit is to look for wildlife. Especially wolves. Each year we come we find that wolves that inhabit Yellowstone that we follow year after year have been shot in the

hunting season or killed under suspicious circumstances outside of season or quota. I am in favor of reducing or eliminating wolf hunting quotas around Yellowstone park borders.

Hunting District Comment: I would support increasing the buffer zones around Yellowstone to further limit wolf hunting

Stephen Hussey Orange, CA

279. **Wolf Season Comment:** Below are the perfectly composed words of my wildlife guiding colleague, Cara McGary who lives in hunting unit 313. I live in 316 and was witness to the highly unethical shooting of wolf 926F in November of 2018. As the only local wildlife guide operating out of Silver Gate/Cooke City, I have a deep understanding of what the wolves of Yellowstone bring to these communities and how much division and pain the killing of a highly researched animal can bring. Because I cannot add anything more to Cara's words, I will simply reinstate them. Thank You. ——— As a resident of unit 313 and business owner whose livelihood is dependent on regular sightings of healthy wolves in Yellowstone's Northern Range, I strongly support the commissions' proposal to lower wolf hunt quotas to 1 wolf per unit in 313 and 316. The wolf packs that live mainly within Yellowstone move out of the national park boundaries in the winter following the prey species on which they rely. This corresponds with the open hunting season. Killing wolves that maintain summer territories in the park destabilizes pack structure and hunting capabilities. In some cases this leads to opportunistic predation on livestock and other human-wolf conflict such as occurred last year in Cooke City – Silver Gate. While there are ample opportunities to hunt wolves elsewhere in the state, Yellowstone wolves have value in research, observation and tourism that far outweighs their economic value through trophy hunting. More than 90% of my business income is from guiding wildlife watching tours and I have yet to have a client who did not wish to see a wolf. For most of my clients, that is their primary reason for visiting Northern Yellowstone and spending money in the gateway communities of Gardiner and Cooke City-Silver Gate. Several of my clients have returned again and again to watch wolves and stay in these communities, preferring their offerings and character to the inside of the park. The local economic value of living wolves cannot be understated! There is an ecological value to wolves as well. Being able to live and work in an ecosystem with all of its native mammals present is a value that cannot be measured by money. It functions on its own, is balanced and is resistant to disease. Our wolves and elk do not need intensive population management (like elsewhere in the state) because they have a well-established predator prey relationship, which mutually limits their populations and their incidence of disease. This is what success looks like in an ecosystem. Thanks for keeping it so!
- Hunting District Comment:** Are we being asked about a boundary shift in Silver Gate? I haven't seen it in this paperwork but we have been working toward a "safety zone" for people and animals alike. Thank You.

Audra Conklin Taylor Silver Gate, MT

280. Please keep the 2 wolf limit in WMU 313 & 316.

Mark Carlson Gig Harbor, WA

281. **Wolf Season Comment:** I would like to request that the wolf hunting quota of be lowered to one in each area boundary for Yellowstone National Park. My husband and family members visit

Lamar Valley in Yellowstone National Park every year and have stayed in places like Cooke City and Gardiner Montana. We stay for up to two weeks at a time in the cabins and hotels and restaurants. We also buy fuel for our cars and spend a lot of time telling friends and others about the park wildlife especially about wolves and bears. This is the foremost reason that we come here. We want to see wolves in the wild. They make a great contribution to the health of Elk herds taking the weakest and help to stop spread of CWD. Allowing the ranchers to graze their cattle on public lands is detrimental to the ecosystem as well as the future of wolves. Please do not raise the hunting quota for wolves. The public deserves to see American wolves in the wild making their contribution to a healthy ecosystem.

Hunting District Comment: Please reconsider not raising the hunting quotas for our Yellowstone wolves. The wolves bring tourism dollars which support local communities and towns bordering the National parks. Thank you.

Yolanda Orange, CA

282. I oppose the proposed reduction of the quotas in both WMU 313 and 316.

Brian Helms Mammoth, WY

283. **Wolf Season Comment:** Please vote to bring quota down. Please do not kill wolves. Thank you

Hunting District Comment: Please extend the boundaries allowing wolves to roam farther

Kim Waterson Orange, CA

284. While I am not a resident of Montana, I urge you to limit the wolf hunt in units 316 and 318 to one animal. We visited in January 2020 primarily to see wolves in Yellowstone National Park. Any hunting which diminishes the pack should be extremely limited, Thank you for considering my comments,

Philip Millam Winthrop, WA

285. I oppose any change to the current wolf regulations in and around Gardner Mtn., The 2 kill regulations should stay in place!

Andrew Irvine Raleigh, NC

286. **Wolf Season Comment:** Thank you for proposing to lower the wolf quota along Yellowstone's border. This is a wilderness area and wolves are an important part of Montana's ecosystem and also good for the economy.

Hunting District Comment: Lowering the wolf quota around Yellowstone makes good sense. This is an area where wolves are studied and many tourists come to see wolves which is good for the economy. Wolves also help keep the elk herds healthy by killing sick and weak elk and deer. There are other areas in Montana where wolves can be hunted.

Sheri Mclelland Gregory, MI

287. **Wolf Season Comment:** From my perspective in western Montana we have far too many Deer and Elk. These animals destroy almost any and all possible regen of my forest land. The wolves and other high level predators help keep them in check. A VERY good thing IMO. Lets keep a good balance and not get rid of the high level predators, everything in moderation, works good

Hunting District Comment: Higher Elk and Deer quotas work for me
Ken James Thompson Falls, MT

288. **Hunting District Comment:** Thank you commissioners for your proposal to lower the wolf hunt quotas along the Yellowstone's border. As a visitor with family and friends twice a year to see the wolves , bears and wildlife I appreciate your science based decision. The wolf research over 25 years demonstrates the benefits of the wolves for the entire ecosystem including the increasing problem of elk and deer with chronic wasting disease.
Carol Peterson Centennial, CO

289. **Wolf Season Comment:** No comment.

Hunting District Comment: I do not support the reduction from 2 wolves to 1 in WMU 313 and 316.
Gene Eastman College Station, TX

290. **Wolf Season Comment:** WE need to let the Wolf population re-establish itself. Please keep hunting to limits as low as possible, don't increase.
Hunting District Comment: please do not expand boundaries.
Alicia Shultz Schenectady, NY

291. **Wolf Season Comment:** Hello, although I live in the Houston, Texas area I travel to Yellowstone at least 3 times a year and usually spend 3-4 weeks there photographing and videoing the wolves as they often live out every facet of their lives where we can see them. The fact that the wolves are so close to the road, where we can easily see them at times, has excited so many visitors to the park. However, we are well aware that the very wolves millions of visitors watch inside the park, will often need to travel outside the Park when food becomes scarce. The wolves have no idea where the park boundary lines are and they especially do not know there are hunters laying in wait for them. Many of these wolves are used to seeing people - and they will be much easier for hunters to kill. That is why we implore you to shorten the hunting season or eliminating it all together to insure this natural resource continues to be available because (1. The wolves are worth much more alive than dead. The revenue that many businesses take in nowadays come from people who travel to Yellowstone in order to expressly see the wolves. I cannot tell you how joyful the look is when a person sees the wolves for the first time. And (2 - the wolves, especially those around Yellowstone, have the right to LIVE. Their lives in the natural world is often harsh and merciless. We hope this year will see some important changes. For the first time I have have been hearing serious talks about boycotting. And again I implore you to protect the Park wolves from being needlessly slaughtered as they bring so much happiness to others - both emotionally AND financially. Thank you so much, Sincerely Michael Holt
Hunting District Comment: My main concerns are in the statements I made above. But with regard to the Wolf Hunting District Boundaries I truly believe these creatures deserve to live in a world where they are free from being harmed by humans. Also for the same financial and emotional reasons I wrote about above. One person with a gun should not have the right to literally kill and take the life of these creatures away - ESPECIALLY from many thousands of people who receive so much enjoyment and deep emotional rewards from these creatures

living out their lives in good viewing distance. Many people are very hurt when they hear of a wolf (a wolf they have come to know and respect) being killed by one hunter. Sorry but I don't think one person with a gun has the right to take this away from thousands of people. A good hunter should be able to hunt the wolves in a state as large as Montana - far away from the sanctuary of National Parks. Thank you very much for your consideration. Sincerely, Michael Holt

Michael Holt Kingwood, TX

292. **Wolf Season Comment:** I urge you to implement the minimum quota allowable by law, which is one wolf. Last year, I gave my dad an amazing experience by flying out to Yellowstone National Park and spending a week in the park and its surrounding communities. We went there to experience the park's geothermal features, wildness, and wildlife, which included wolves. We hired several Montana-based wildlife guides to help us see the wildlife in the northern section of the park near the Montana boundary, and the experience was so awe-inspiring that I returned two months later to spend several days viewing wolves and other wildlife in and around the park, again with a guide, and spending my nights (and my money) in Gardiner. Wolves are a uniquely wild animal that deserves special protection. A great deal of taxpayer money has been spent restoring wolves to their native range, and now that they are making a comeback, they are driving significant economic activity by attracting visitors from around the world who spend thousands of dollars each on transportation, food, lodging, guiding services, and memorabilia. When you kill a wolf, you not only kill the wildness that they represent for what is essentially a trophy (wolves don't taste very good), but you also destroy the economic benefits that wolves bring to your state.

Hunting District Comment: Please keep the boundaries as small as possible, and distant from national parks, forests, and BLM lands, which are the primary economic drivers for Montana's service industry.

Scott Kelly Boston, VA

293. **From:** Jason S. Schaefer <jss@millerlawpc.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 2:35 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Wolf quotas in 313/316 - public comment for upcoming meeting

Montana Fish & Wildlife Committee

To whom it may concern:

I would first like to thank you for your efforts and support thus far, in setting the quota to 2 wolves that can be killed in Units 313 and 316. This shows that you have listened and see the logic behind that lower number.

The great many benefits dictate that you should not stop there. The statistics show that the number of people who come to visit Yellowstone from out of town, myself included, has increased more than 20% over the past decade. The number of licensed hunters in this time frame has decreased almost 10%. There is much more to lose by wolves being hunted in 313 and 316 than there is to gain.

I respectfully ask that you consider lowering the quota to just one wolf per zone, with your votes at the important meeting being held in a couple weeks. And I thank you in advance for your consideration.

Regards,

Jason Schaefer

294. **From:** Lynn Okita <lmonp13@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2020 10:04 PM
To: FWP Commission <FVComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment re: wolf quota in units 313 and 316

To Montana Fish & Wildlife Commissioners:

I am writing to request that the quota of wolves taken in management units 313 and 316 be reduced to one wolf per unit. Wolves killed in these units are often Yellowstone wolves, which is especially disturbing. These wolves belong to packs that are essential not only to the ecosystem of Yellowstone, but also to the local economy as they draw tourists from around the world. So many wildlife enthusiasts enjoy wolf watching in Yellowstone, and come to know the packs and many of its members. I watched a wonderful special on 20/20 tonight about Yellowstone wolves, and I am even more anxious to make a trip there to see wolves in their natural habitat. Friends of mine go to Yellowstone 4 times each year specifically to see the wolves. My husband and I hope to join them this year. Knowing that some of these wolves will be killed by hunters because they wander outside of the park boundaries is heartbreaking. I am conflicted about visiting the park to see the wolves in person knowing that I may find out that one or more I have seen, marveled over, and photographed has been killed. Yellowstone wolves are valuable assets to Montana, but only if they are living. Wolves that keep tourist dollars flowing into the state year after year are priceless to the economy. The joy of seeing Yellowstone wolves is priceless to wildlife enthusiasts.

Thank you for your consideration of my letter.

Sincerely,

Lynn Okita

295. **From:** Sandy Hruby <murfles@bis.midco.net>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 2:10 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comment on Wolf Quotas in WMU 313 and 316

Dear Montana FWP Commissioners,

I would like to commend you for proposing to lower the wolf hunting quotas along Yellowstone's border to only 1 wolf each in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316. I heartily agree with this proposal, and Thank You!

As you are aware, this area is a wilderness area, not ranch lands, and wolves are much valued for tourism and research. I personally have been coming to Montana, staying in the communities of Cooke City and Gardiner since 2012, for the sole purpose of observing the wolves. Now that I am retired, I spend a full month of the year observing, staying in Gardiner. 2 weeks in October and 2 weeks in March. I drive there from my home in ND, and estimate that my total expenditures for these trips average around \$9,000. per year spent in your great State. Wildlife tourism is an important part of the economy of your State.

There is plenty of opportunity for hunters to kill wolves in the rest of Montana and this small protected area should be managed differently with tourism and wolf research being priorities.

Thank You for your time and your efforts!

Sincerely,

Sandra I. Hruby
Mandan, ND 58554

296. **From:** Michael D.C. Siegle, Ph.D. <canislupusmichael12@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 3:26 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Changing Wolf Hunting Quotas in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316

Honorable Fish and Wildlife Commissioners:

I am writing to you today requesting you reduce the Wolf Hunting Quota from two (2) Wolves in each of the above Wolf Management Units to one (1) Wolf, or ideally no Wolves in one or both Units.

Wolves are not over-harvesting Elk and reducing hunting opportunities. In fact Elk numbers in these areas have increased! Wolves take older, weaker Elk, leaving the younger, stronger Elk to reproduce at higher levels, which they certainly are doing. Further, these healthier, stronger Elk provide a higher level of challenge for hunters. This is the reason for hunters taking fewer Elk, not because Wolves are over-harvesting Elk. Stronger, healthier Elk mean hunter skills must improve! And, with increasing number of Elk, perhaps no Wolves should be killed in Areas 313 and 316.

Please also realize many tourists come to Yellowstone National Park to view Wolves and other Wildlife, with Wolves being star attractions. As tourism increases in Yellowstone, so does tourist revenue for the Park and Montana Communities of Gardner, Silver Gate/Cooke City, and West Yellowstone. The opportunity to view more Wolves brings more revenue to the Park and surrounding Montana Communities. Another reason to reduce the number of Wolves killed in Areas 313 and 316 from two (2) to one (1), or none.

Please, Commissioners, Wolves are especially important in Wolf Management Areas 313 and 316 to the Elk population and to Tourism, which equates to significant revenues in Yellowstone National Park and the surrounding Montana Communities.

Thank you, Commissioners, for your valuable time and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

Michael Siegle, Ph.D.

297. **From: Stephanie Perry** <stephylou@yahoo.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 3:17 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change the wolf quota in units 313 and 316

Dear Sir,

I am writing in the hopes to get the wolf quota lowered for units 313 and 316.

The numbers of Yellowstone wolves have dropped drastically. They were once at 500 plus to now less than 100. Yellowstone is a huge area for such a low number of wolves. Natural causes like disease,

injuries from hunting, pack fights and malnourishment, all play the natural part in lowering the wolves number at a much more normal rate. When you add to the accidents of being hit by a car, man made causes like mange, and especially hunting, plus being poached due to the just sheer hate of the animal, the numbers go way to low, way to fast.

I am sure you have heard in so many letters about how that can make the ecosystem unstable. So I am not going to go there in this statement.

I know that you have heard that the wolves are worth more alive than dead. That is really true, given how many people visit the park every year to see the wolves. I try and go to Yellowstone at least twice, sometimes three times a year. That adds up.

What I would like to point out, is why keep them alive and well on a more personal level.

The wolves are what drew me to Yellowstone, they are what keeps me coming back time and time again. Their sheer beauty, their intelligence, their family bond, it is all amazing and it is such a treasure to have in Yellowstone. There is no price on having something this rare and special. Why would you want to destroy the very thing that so many people love, dream to come and see and then keep returning year after year?

The wolves are very important to a lot of people, all over the world, in so many different ways. They have helped people with PTSD, depression, health issues, coping with life in general. How, do you ask? It is because, Yellowstone in all its peaceful beauty and seeing those wonderful wolves in their natural habitat, living free and wild, does something to the mind, body and soul. It is rejuvenating, peaceful, spiritual, if you will. Don't take the one thing that has helped so many people, away. The life of a wolf is worth more than a hunting tag. To some it means everything, to the wolf pack members, it is everything.

I know that this letter is probably out of the ordinary compared to others that you will receive, but I am just voicing what is in my heart and how I truly feel about these amazing creatures.

Please take into consideration in lowering the quota. We have lost so many. We are punishing the wolves for them living where we introduced them. We are responsible for them being here in Yellowstone (1995/1996), bringing them back from the point of almost extinction, to just once again hunt them to the point where they might not be able to recoup. That is so contradicting and very irresponsible. Wolves only mate once a year and the survival rate of those pups is not very high. They have a very hard life, let's not make it any harder for them.

Let us be responsible in our way of living.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and for letting me voice my opinions on this matter.

Have a good day, Stephanie Perry

Benton, Illinois

62812

cell- 618-927-2726

298. **From:** Julie Argyle <julieargylewildlifephotography@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 11:17 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Proposal to change wolf quota in unit 313 and 316

To whom it may concern:

As a wildlife photographer and animal lover residing in Utah, I find the need to travel to Yellowstone many times throughout the year. My family of 5 (which includes myself, my husband and 3 children ranging from the age of 9 to 19) have a 5th wheel that we stay in during the months of June and September and then, believe it or not, I travel to the park almost every weekend during the summer months and also make a couple of trips during the winter.

You may wonder why I choose to travel to Yellowstone so often, and in the past my answer would have been the grizzly bears, but after crossing paths with 2 wolves several years ago, they are now first on my list to see.

I will admit that in being the wife of a hunter, the fact that I began having an interest in wolves did not sit so well. But, after many trips of researching, watching and educating myself and my family, it became apparent that my mind had been poisoned not only with the idea that you should shoot, shovel, and shut up but with many other unsupported facts as well.

In my personal research, I found that most of the stories told about them are untrue, and that they are extremely blown out of proportion. Contrary to what many say on a regular basis, wolves have not killed all of the elk in Yellowstone, (if they were going to do that, that would have happened within the first 10 years of their return), I have been visiting Yellowstone for 45 years and I can tell you on a first hand basis that what they have actually done, is help manage the herd which as hunters know is a very important thing to do. It keeps nature at a healthy balance and also keeps the herds from over populating. Another

important thing that I learned is that wolves are very family oriented, they kill to provide for their families and contrary to what some claim, they do not usually kill for fun. Most of the time if a carcass is left uneaten, it is because of human interference, and when a human comes upon a kill, they end up scaring the wolves away and the carcass is left behind, it is not because they choose to leave it, it is because they are forced to leave it.

I have spent more hours behind my scope over the past few years than I have my camera. I have always said photography first, watcher second, but as my love for these park wolves has grown, that has become harder to do. I now share my scope with thousands of people who come to visit Yellowstone, all hoping to see their first wild wolves. The thrill they get when seeing them and the feeling I get to be able to share that moment with them is indescribable. Whether it be an 80 year old man or a 10 year old child, they almost always respond the same. It is an immediate love for these animals and they can't get enough of them. Some want to learn about certain packs, and some want to learn about individual wolves. I do what I can to educate them and many times after they have left the park, I get messages asking about whichever wolf or pack became their favorite.

On the down side of all of this excitement, is that moment when I have to share the news that a park wolf or certain members of a pack have been taken out in the hunt that surrounds Yellowstone. I try to explain that some areas have quota's and that only a small number of wolves are allowed to be killed in these areas but still, most find that the killing of any Yellowstone wolf especially when it is right by the boundary of the park to be barbaric and an unfair chase and they feel that there should be no hunting at all in these areas. I can say that I do agree with this, these wolves are use to a scope or camera being pointed at them and have no idea what a gun is.

Besides being a photographer and watcher, I run a Facebook page that shares photographs of all animals on a daily basis. Just recently on one of my posts where I spoke about a park wolf being killed just outside the park, I received this comment.

"Lifelong hunter here, but I wrote the FWP commission last year about the absolute folly in having a wolf quota outside the park. This does tremendous PR damage to Montana, hunting in general, and the gateway communities. This is not fair chase by any means. Since these wolves have a world-wide following thanks to modern technology, under what scenario is it positive for FWP to thumb its nose at wolf advocates, the gateway communities that depend on tourism, and Montana's public reputation, by allowing the taking of even two park wolves? Not to mention the bad PR for hunting. All this negativity to maintain only two wolf licenses outside of Yellowstone is ridiculous."

For me that message spoke volumes. It said many truths and spoke of things that should be taken into consideration when coming up with the hunt regulations around the park. I also have many friends who hunt and even a friend who is a trapper. We do butt heads on many issues, but one thing is for sure, they too agree that allowing animals to be hunted around the boundaries of Yellowstone is not realistic.

In ending, it is my recommendation and plea, that there be no hunting in units 313 and 316. In years past, the existing quotas have gone over at times, and in reality, there is no need to kill any wolves in

either of these two areas. If what people say is true, there are plenty of wolves in other areas that can be killed.

Help preserve Yellowstone wolves, they matter to myself, my children, my husband and to many, many people around the world. They matter to the economy and many businesses in the surrounding areas, and they matter to the people in these areas. These wolves have been brought into our lives for many different reasons and our voices are their only chance at survival.

Sincerely,

Julie Argyle

Photographer, and Watcher

299. **From:** vic <vltyellowstone@aol.com>

Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 11:44 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 & 316

Dear Sirs,

I am writing to you in regards to the wolves that are being killed in your state of Montana. I am a visitor to your state for the past 30 years and come several times a year visiting for several weeks at a time. I spend many thousands of dollars in the communities surrounding the park by lodging, food, entertainment, gas etc. My main attraction to your state is the wildlife, mainly the large predators being the wolf and grizzly bear. As you know there are only limited places left in the United States where wolves are wild..your state being one. Right now wolves are protected in Yellowstone as they were introduced 25 years ago as long as they stay in the park. If they leave the park boundaries they can be trapped, shot, poisoned. I am alarmed at the number of Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal. I respectfully request the the Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota in wolf management units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. As you know 37 Yellowstone wolves have been killed since hunting became legal with an alarming 30 killed in units 313 and 316. These wolves spend their entire lives 95 percent of it inside the park under the protection of the law and if they come out of these imaginary boundaries they can be killed. It makes no sense to protect wolves in the park and know they cross into those units following elk, making it easy to kill our studied park wolves. Wolves in units 313 and 316 are more valuable alive than dead. As you know in 2019 in unit 313 hunters killed three wolves instead of two. The effects of Yellowstone wolves killed is devastating as the killing of 06 in 2012 and her daughter 926 killed in 2018. They were both killed outside the park's north entrance along with so many others. The Lamar Canyon pack never recovered from the killing of 06 and the ignorance of one man taking the life of one wolf away from millions. Please protect our Yellowstone wolves by reducing the number of wolves taken in these two crucial areas. Thank you so much for your consideration of my request.

Vicky Trumbly

300. **From:** Christy Chaney <cchain32@yahoo.com>

Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 2:18 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to show my full support of your proposal to lower the quota from 2 to 1 wolf in WMU 313 and WMU 316. These units border Yellowstone National Park, and it is likely that any wolves taken in these two units will be a Yellowstone wolf. Senator Mike Phillips reported that 37 Yellowstone wolves have been killed since the wolf hunt became legal in Montana. Of those 37 wolves, 30 have been killed in Units 313 and 316. These wolves spend most of their time inside the park being protected and somewhat habituated, and they shouldn't be sentenced to death for following their food source out of the park and crossing an invisible line that they do not know exists. If the quota is lowered then there will only be two less wolves killed per year in theory. I say that because Unit 313 has been over quota several years including this year. I know Montana law does not allow a buffer zone around Yellowstone, so decreasing the two units to the minimum of 1 wolf per unit is a step in the right direction. If that means saving two Yellowstone wolves per year then I am grateful for that. If we keep losing these park wolves to the hunt after we have grown to admire them then there will be no reason to keep coming back to visit. I have been coming to Yellowstone since the summer of 2014 to specifically see wolves and bears. I am taking my first winter trip next month, February 2020 for no other reason than to see wolves. I have watched these wolves personally and via social media everyday since my 2014 trip. I travel from Texas, and I always stay in Cooke City or Silvergate. This last summer (2019) was very hard to stay there and spend my money knowing that was the place that our beloved 926F was killed (Unit 316). She was more than just a wolf to many of us. She was why we made the trip year after year. However, I did finally put my feelings aside and stayed in Cooke City and I will stay in Silvergate this summer (2020) and the summer after that. Just because I hunt wolves with a camera instead of a rifle shouldn't devalue my non-consumptive contribution to the communities that directly sit in the units in question. I am more than certain that I spend more in those communities than what a few wolf tags cost. As wolf watcher numbers increase every year it's apparent to me that wolves are worth more alive than dead. I love your state, and I love to watch wolves there. Please consider moving forward with your proposal to decrease the wolf quota in WMU 313 and WMU 316.

Thank you so much for your consideration.
Christy

301. **From:** Missy Owens <missyo60@comcast.net>

Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 9:52 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Wolf Quota in Units 313 and 316

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to trespass on your valuable time and submit this request.

The appropriate balance in nature not only improves the quality of life for all, but is also financially beneficial. The reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone has certainly supported this premise. Elk herds have increased, hunters have been more successful, visitation has increased in Yellowstone all of which has led to benefits for all Montanans.

We are residents of Florida, but have traveled to Montana for the past 15 years for the opportunity to enjoy the spectacular wildlife in Yellowstone. We typically spend two months in Montana. Yellowstone

is truly a national treasure, but the continued increase in visitors can primarily be attributed to the opportunity to view large predators such as wolves and grizzlies in their natural habitat.

Although the wolf quota issue has become very complex, if we look at the facts from an unbiased position, clearly large predators in units 313 and 316 are more valuable alive than dead. We would sincerely request that for the benefit of all concerned that you reduce the wolf quota in units 313 & 316 to one wolf per unit.

Thanking you in advance for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Missy and Andy Owens

302. **From: Lauren Northrop** <l.north24@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2020 8:58 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Regarding Proposal to Change Wolf Quotas in Units 313 and 316

Dear Montana Fish and Wildlife Commissioners,

Thank you for your consideration of my comment on the proposal to change wolf quotas in Units 313 and 316.

I am writing to request that these quotas be REDUCED to no more than ONE (1) wolf per unit.

Here is my reasoning:

Your failure to protect wolves, a native species and a treasure of the United States, strikes me as distinctly unpatriotic.

For years I've wanted to take my family of five out west to Yellowstone and Montana for an eco-tourism trip to see wolves in the wild. We have taken the wildness out of our country and wolves are emblematic of the last remnant of wildness left in the United States, with the possible exception of Alaska.

However, as I have watched trophy hunters legally gun down and even bait wolves who step outside of the park (even though they spend 95% percent of their lives inside the protected boundaries) I have questioned my plans to go and spend out hard-earned money in your state. Why should I take my family to travel and spend money to view a part of nature that isn't valued by your state?

Why should I support your economy when you support hunters that take wolves belonging to Yellowstone, which belongs to the American people as a whole?

I consider this failure to protect one of America's national treasures to be fundamentally un-American and unpatriotic.

I can't support a lack of patriotism and a failure to protect one of America's native species.

Moreover, elk herds have actually been increasing in recent years, and your management of wolf hunting needs to catch up to the data.

When I finally see Montana stepping up and protecting America's wolves, I will book our long-planned travel to your state.

For these reasons, as stated above, I write to ask that the quota be reduced and that your government stand up for American wolves and not just the hunters that want to gun them down.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,

Lauren Northrop, Esq.

303. **From: Robert Schmidt** <faymiss1@wi.rr.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 9:14 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment on Proposal to Change Wolf Quota in Units 313 and 316

Dear MT Fish and Wildlife Commissioner,

I respectfully request that you reduce the wolf take quota in WMU 313 and 316.

As an annual tourist/visitor to Montana, your decision has a significant impact on my future plans for returning to your State. The reason I travel through and visit Montana is to observe wolves in the wild of Yellowstone National Park. When we stay in Gardiner, we spend approximately \$2000 on food, drink, and lodging. I would not return to Montana if not for the ability to view and experience wolves in the park.

Your decisions have, and will continue to impact the wolf population within Yellowstone. The number of wolves hunted and killed in units 313 and 316 has a significant impact in determining the number of wolves living in Yellowstone's northern range. Sen. Mike Phillips has reported that of the 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. Data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves shows that they spent at least 95% of their lives in the park.

Wolves symbolize the wild to me. Their will to survive is inspiring and their beauty draws me back to Yellowstone annually. Your decision will have a direct effect on my ability to enjoy these beautiful

creatures and whether or not I continue to financially support the business institutions within and around Gardiner.

Best Regards

Robert Schmidt

Germantown WI

304. **From:** Joan Huska <joanhuska@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 5:25 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment:Proposed Wolf Quotas To Units 313 and 316

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to you in regard to this subject which has greatly impacted the hearts of my family like many people of your area and many others throughout the USA. I consider myself unfortunate not to have been born in the beautiful West, but have been blessed to have discovered the majestic bounty of the Montana/Wyoming Yellowstone area. This area is so uniquely gifted with a host of wildlife and beauty which is delicately balanced. It is one of the few places in America in which we can enjoy the wolves and other wildlife since the reintroduction in 1995. My family has closely followed these wolves and eagerly anticipate our annual trips to the Yellowstone area. Please reduce the quota in Units 313 and 316 to 'one.'

I could quote you statistics, but you know these. I will tell you that my friends here in SC marvel at my photos and tales of these amazing creatures and the impact they have had on the return of the beavers etc. Many have made the trip since hearing these tales. Our family has a tradition that once you have been exposed, you must expose one other so we hope to create a chain reaction. You know the details, but those of us who only get an occasional glimpse into that magical world of how delicate the balance between nature and mankind are counting on you to maintain this way of life for all of us to continue to enjoy. You have to see it to really appreciate it and understand how important it is to preserve everything for future generations.

My family spends a lot of money to travel to Montana and in Montana, but it is so worth it. We so look forward to our visits. Thank you for taking the time to consider this and please protect the wildlife.

Thank you,

Joan M. Posey

305. **From:** Bibek Ghosh <bibek@alumni.stanford.edu>

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 7:35 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWSComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316

Respected Commissioners,

For someone from the warmer climes of coastal India, who had experienced the chilly 50° F as the coldest winter, venturing in to the -30° F blizzard in the Lamar had to require some motivator. As a geologist by training Yellowstone meant a lot to me and pulled me there a few times during the warmer seasons. However, after the reintroduction of the wolves, around the same time that I finished my Ph. D. work, I always contemplated going back to look for the wolves.

As kids were growing up, my time was spent with the family in the San Francisco Bay Area where the coolest we ever experienced in the last 30 years was about 28° F! My opportunity to venture out to the winter snowscapes of Lamar was triggered mainly by my urge to see the wolves. All my research taught me that Lamar was my choice if I wanted to drive myself. I did and for the first time in 2016 spent 5 days in Gardiner driving every morning from 5:30 AM to 4:30 PM waiting at every parked visitor with a scope. The biologists were my indicators and I got my first glimpse of the Junction Butte Pack more than a mile away from the road feeding on an Elk kill. I kept driving the road all the way to Soda Butte for my first closer glimpse of the majestic felines. No, luck was not on my side, but on my final day a solitary mangle infected yearling gave me a closer look. I have never been sorrier watching a wild animal as this solitary wolf. I have resolved to visit this place more often to at least try to do my part about raising the awareness of the need for the wolves in this ecosystem.

2018 exposed me to the Wapiti Pack close to the Indian Trail and these splendid beings filled me with more joy than I could handle. Stood in the snowbank for almost 6 hours, yes I only had my California hiking boots since I had thought that was all I needed inside the bombardier we had rented. My feet and my toes survived simply because of the handwarmers in my socks. I have endured and endeared the harshest winter on the lower 48 and will do it over and over again as long as I can.

Several of my friends have requested me to bring them along and I will be doing that soon. I have been able to raise the awareness among my friends from India who want to visit Yellowstone during winter now. I am sure the wolves have been the key pull, it cannot be the snow and cold, especially for us Indians.

I think there are a lot of folks that gravitate towards the park in winter simply to see the wolves and are helping generate some revenue for the folks in and around the park. Gardiner and West Yellowstone have been pretty packed during my trips there, not as much as I have seen in the summer, but still there are enough folks to make finding a hotel room difficult.

Like with any migrant, free-living animals, the Yellowstone wolf packs do not read any maps. They are not bound by boundaries or do not know that they have encroached private land. My respectful plea will be to please restrict the quota for the WMU 313 and 316 to a single wolf each. WMU 313 and 316 make up among the smallest of all the WMU in the state of Montana. These two are the natural buffer zones into which the Yellowstone wolves move to follow their hunger and the migrating Elk during winter.

Of the 254 wolves harvested in Montana in 2017 (Wolf Harvest Report 2017) 104 were harvested in Private locations. While the number of wolf hunting licenses declined from 2011 to 2017, the number of visitors coming to Yellowstone increased in this time frame. The 8% reduction of license fee even accounted for \$380,261.00 in 2017. The economic impact of the 21% increase in the visitors is much greater than what the hunting license fees generate. In fact, according to the NPS data, the visitors in 2018 contributed 28% more money to the local community compared to 2012.

In my humble opinion, the revenue generated by the tourist/visitors helps the business ecosystem significantly and the wolf is a big attraction. Reducing the limit to 1 wolf in WMU 313 and 316 will not have any significant impact on the license fee, but the wolves in the Yellowstone ecosystem will generate a significant business around the park if we can preserve the wolves and let natural causes control their numbers rather than hunting.

I would like to thank you for your kind attention to this request to reduce the quota in WMU 313 and 316.

Sincerely,

Bibek Ghosh

Fremont, CA

bibek@stanfordalumni.org

306. **From:** Carolyn Hall <carolynhall1998@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, January 19, 2020 8:34 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] My comments on reducing quota on Wolf Management Units 313 and 316

Jan 19, 2020

Dear Commissioners,

I am reaching out to you because I would like to provide my comments on revising the Wolf Management quota for units 313 and 316 outside of Yellowstone National Park. I will start off by saying, I am a proud resident of Montana. I live in Columbia Falls, Montana. I am a business professional, and I am outdoor adventurer. I spend much of my time hiking Glacier National Park along with Yellowstone. Additionally, I believe in giving back to this amazing state I live in, and to those residents who are also so fortunate to live here. I am an active member of North Valley Search and Rescue based in Columbia Falls, and take pride in the valuable service that we provide, and the community we serve.

I am respectfully requesting that the Montana Wildlife, Fish and Parks commissioners reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit.

It is a statistically proven fact that wolves in these units have not reduced the elk herds. In 2018 in unit 313, hunters took 38 more elk than in 2011. Similarly, in unit 316, hunters took 173% more elk than in 2011. Thus, the presence of wolves is not hindering hunter success rates. In 2017, hunters took 254 wolves statewide (2017 MT Wold Harvest Report). Since the introduction of wolves to Yellowstone the ecosystem has thrived, and so has tourism. Thus, providing much needed revenue to Montana. Yellowstone is iconic to many people in the states, and around the globe. Essentially, what happens in Yellowstone good, or bad does not go unnoticed, and is always up scrutiny. The actions are either criticized, or applauded. Additionally, Yellowstone is one of the few places people can come from around the world, and have a reasonable chance of seeing wolf. They have the opportunity to see nature with Montana's amazing wildlife at its best. I myself have been fortunate to watch wolves, and witness some of their endeavors. Many people come to see wolves in their natural setting, and pay high dollars that affords them this opportunity. Much of that money is spent in Montana. The tourism dollars received is the second biggest source of revenue in Montana. Because of that it is a big driver in creating jobs in surrounding communities such as Gardiner, Silver Gate / Cook City, and West Yellowstone and as far away as Bozeman and Livingston. With few hunters, and more tourists whom many are wildlife enthusiasts, wolves in units 313 and 316 are much more valuable alive than dead. Thank you for your time. I am respectfully requesting that the Wolf Management Quota in units 313 and 316 be reduced to one wolf in each unit.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Hall
1603 Fran Lou Park Lane
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
406-897-2599 home
406-892-5500 work
carolynhall1998@gmail.com

307. **From:** Kathy Benson <kbenson1864@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, January 20, 2020 9:11 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed wolf quota for 313 & 316

To whom it may concern:

After learning of your proposal and reading your stats my husband and I would like to respectfully offer our opinion regarding the proposed wolf quota in Units 313 & 316. My husband was a Montana resident for many years and we have spent our retirement years in Arkansas but visit Montana and Yellowstone often. As photographers and conservationists we are more concerned with hunting and shooting wolves with a camera rather than a gun. As a hunter my husband is not necessarily against hunting either. However, after seeing the numbers of the elk population we don't feel that the wolves are a detriment to their population, so we don't believe killing the wolves will have any impact on the elk population. We believe it's the natural order of things to allow the wolves to follow and hunt to eat the elk. The wolves normally kill the old, sick or wounded and sometimes the young, yet the elk population is thriving. We ask that you change from 2 wolves per area to one per area.

Thank you for considering our opinions.

Sincerely ,
Ben and Kathy Benson
1615 Jordan Rd
Norfolk Arkansas 72658

Sent from my iPhone

308. **From:** MARIA WATKINS <mariaw99@comcast.net>
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2020 12:09 AM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316
Other Action You Can Take:

Greetings:

Montana Fish & Wildlife commissioners reduce the quota
in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit.

2. Wolves have not reduced elk herds in these units.

In 2011, the year wolf hunting returned, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) counted 3,259 elk in unit 313 and considered that unit "at objective." (2011 Statewide Elk Estimate, FWP)

In 2018 unit 313 had 5,738 elk. The population had increased by 76% over the 2011 count and was "over objective." (2018 Statewide Elk Trend Estimate, FWP)

3. Many wolves taken in these two units are Yellowstone wolves.

The 2005 FWP Elk Management Plan states that units 313 and 316 support the Northern Yellowstone elk herd. The National Park Service (NPS) calls these elk the Northern Range herd. Yellowstone wolves follow this food source whether the elk are in the park or outside the park in units 313 and 316. But most wolves and elk return to the park as winter ends.

Senator Mike Phillips reported that of the 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. Data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves shows that they spent at least 95% of their lives in the park. (2019 comment by Senator Phillips to Montana Senate re: SB 185)

So the number of wolves living in Yellowstone's Northern Range helps determine the number of wolves

hunted outside the park in 313 and 316.

In 2011, the Yellowstone Wolf Project counted 38 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2011)

In 2018, they counted 39 Northern Range wolves. (YWP Annual Report 2018)

While the number of wolves hunting elk stayed consistent, the number of elk in unit 313 increased by 76%.

Talking Points for email to Commissioners Page 1 of 3

4. Hunters are not losing out to wolves in these units.

In 2018 in unit 313, hunters took 38% more elk than in 2011. (FWP online harvest database)

In 2018 in unit 316, hunters took 173% more elk than in 2011. (FWP online harvest database)

In both units the Hunter Success Rate was higher in 2018 than in 2011.

5. Wolves are plentiful elsewhere.

In Montana, wolves are considered big game, and hunters can legally shoot them. But do they have to shoot them in units 313 and 316?

In 2011, hunters and trappers took 166 wolves statewide. (2011 MT Wolf Hunting Season Report, FWP)

In 2017, they took 254 wolves statewide. (2017 MT Wolf Harvest Report, latest report available online)

If the commissioners reduce the quota in 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit, hunters have two fewer wolves to take. Those two wolves represent less than 1% of that 2017 statewide total.

6. A demographic change supports reducing the quota.

FWP records reveal the number of wolf licenses sold in 2017 (latest data online) was 8% lower than the number sold in 2011. (2011 MT Wolf Hunting Season Report. 2017 MT Wolf Harvest Report)

Meanwhile, 21% more visitors came to Yellowstone in 2017 compared to 2011. (NPS data)

Yellowstone National Park is the only place in Montana where non-consumptive wolf watchers have a reasonable chance of seeing wolves in the wild.

The increase in the number of people who want to shoot wolves with a camera compared with the decrease in the number who want to shoot wolves with a rifle is significant.

(If you visit Yellowstone to watch wolves and you spend money in a gateway town—regardless of whether you visit from your home in Montana or from out of state—you can mention this to commissioners.)

Watching wolves or grizzly bears are two of the biggest draws of visitors to Yellowstone, according to a past NPS study.

A 2018 peer-reviewed NPS study found Yellowstone visitors still ranked seeing wildlife as just below “extremely important.”

Not only have more wildlife watchers come, they’ve left more money behind: Yellowstone visitors spent 28% more money in 2018 than they spent in 2012. (NPS data)

Visitor dollars create jobs in the Montana gateway communities of Gardiner, Silver Gate/Cooke City, and West Yellowstone.

With fewer hunters and more wildlife watchers, wolves in these units are more valuable alive than dead.

7. Experience shows that units 313 and 316 have gone over quota in the past.

This year in unit 313, for example, hunters killed three wolves instead of two. So the smaller the quota in each unit, the better off wolves are.

thank you for carefully considering this.

Sincerely,

Maria E. Watkins

309. **From:** shawn rogan <shawnrogan@yahoo.com>

Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 5:20 PM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public comment on proposal to change wolf quota in units 313 and 316

Dear Commissioners,

Please find attached a letter requesting a change/reduction to the wolf quota in units 313 and 316.

Thank you,

Shawn Rogan

Shawn Rogan
215 McManus Road
Patterson NY 12563

January 14, 2020

Montana Fish & Wildlife Commissioners,

I am respectfully requesting that you reduce the quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. I personally believe the quota should be zero in units adjacent to Yellowstone National Park but I understand that isn't an option.

The argument by some that wolves have reduced the elk herds in these units is not accurate. The 2018 Statewide Elk Trend Estimate, FWP documented the elk population had increased by 76% over the 2011 count, the year wolf hunting returned.

Hunters are not losing out to wolves in these units. In 2018 hunters took 38% more elk in unit 313 than in 2011. (FWP online harvest database) In 2018 hunters took 173% more elk in unit 316 than in 2011. (FWP online harvest database) In both units the Hunter Success Rate was higher in 2018 than in 2011.

Many wolves taken in these two units are Yellowstone wolves. Yellowstone wolves depend on the Northern Range Elk herd as a food source whether the elk are in the park or outside the park in units 313 and 316. Most wolves and elk return to the park as winter ends. Of the 37 Yellowstone wolves killed since hunting wolves became legal in Montana, 30 have been killed in units 313 and 316. Data from collars of killed Yellowstone wolves shows that they spent at least 95% of their lives in the park. So the number of wolves living in Yellowstone's Northern Range helps determine the number of wolves hunted outside the park in 313 and 316. In 2011, the Yellowstone Wolf Project counted 38 Northern Range wolves and in 2018, they counted 39 Northern Range wolves. While the number of wolves hunting elk stayed consistent, the number of elk in unit 313 increased by 76%.

Wolves are plentiful elsewhere. In Montana, wolves are considered big game, and hunters can legally shoot them so they DO NOT have to shoot them in units 313 and 316. In 2011, hunters and trappers took 166 wolves statewide. In 2017, they took 254 wolves statewide.

If the commissioners reduce the quota in 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit, hunters have two fewer wolves to take. Those two wolves represent less than 1% of that 2017 statewide total. A demographic change supports reducing the quota. FWP records reveal the number of wolf licenses sold in 2017 was 8% lower than the number sold in 2011. Meanwhile, 21% more visitors came to Yellowstone in 2017 compared to 2011. Yellowstone National Park is the only place in Montana where non-consumptive wolf watchers have a reasonable chance of seeing wolves in the wild. The increase in the number of people who want to shoot wolves with a camera compared with the decrease in the number who want to shoot wolves with a rifle is significant. Watching wolves or grizzly bears are two of the biggest draws of visitors to Yellowstone, according to a past NPS study. A 2018 peer-reviewed NPS study found Yellowstone visitors still ranked seeing wildlife as just below "extremely important." Yellowstone visitors spent 28% more money in 2018 than they spent in 2012. (NPS data) Visitor dollars create jobs in the Montana gateway communities of Gardiner, Silver Gate/Cooke City, and West Yellowstone. With fewer hunters and more wildlife watchers, wolves in these units are more valuable alive than dead.

Experience shows that units 313 and 316 have gone over quota in the past. This year in unit 313, for example, hunters killed three wolves instead of two. So the smaller the quota in each unit, the better off wolves are.

Thank you for your consideration.

Shawn Rogan

310. **From:** *Connie Jeffcoat* <scdruid21@yahoo.com>

Sent: *Sunday, January 19, 2020 7:43 PM*

To: *FWP Commission* <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: *[EXTERNAL] Public Comment: Proposed Wolf Quotas to Units 313 and 316*

Honorable Commissioners:

I am writing to you because Montana and Yellowstone are so important to me and my family and have been since 1995. My family makes at least annual trips to Yellowstone to soak in the beautiful landscapes and enjoy the wildlife. Because we love it so and have devotedly watched wolves since reintroduction, we request that you **please reduce the quota in Units 313 and 316 to "One" (1).**

I think you are justified in taking this actions in these units since elk population has actually increased by 76% since wolf hunting began. In 2011, the year wolf hunting returned, Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) counted 3,259 elk in unit 313 and considered that unit "at objective." (2011 Statewide Elk Estimate, FWP) In 2018 unit 313 had 5,738 elk. The population had increased by 76% over the 2011 count and was "over objective." (2018 Statewide Elk Trend Estimate, FWP)

What we find heartbreaking is that the wolves we view and follow with great interest, are often the same wolves killed in these units as they follow the elk. It's just a natural occurrence we know, but it is devastating to us nonetheless. I have a hard time explaining to my young grandchildren why the wolves are protected in Yellowstone where they are in the presence of many people. Then they cross an invisible line only to be killed. **This makes no sense to the children nor to me.**

And I read that wolves crossing over into these areas do not adversely affect a hunter's successful elk hunting. So there really is no reason for the hunters to eliminate these wolves. **Please allow the wolves to venture outside the Park and then return to their families unharmed.**

After over 30 trips to watch wolves, we have come to love Montana and Gardiner in particular. I hope our tourist dollars spent there help the local economy. We are just one family. Imagine the economic impact of the many wildlife watchers who visit Montana.

Thank you for taking time to read this and please consider this request. **We love Montana!**

Connie Jeffcoat

[Connie Jeffcoat](#)

[193 Edisto Lake Road](#)

[Wagener, SC 29164](#)

[Cell: 803.608.5900](#)

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<http://fineartamerica.com/artists/connie+jeffcoat> [fineartamerica.com]

<http://www.pbase.com/twosticksphotos> [pbase.com]

311. *From: Nancy Wolfwatcher <nancy@wolfwatcher.org>
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2020 6:53 PM
To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>; nwarren1@earthlink.net
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Public Comment Wolf Hunt Quota*

Please see the attached comments. Thank you for your consideration in this matter important to all of us.

--

Nancy Warren

Executive Director

National Wolfwatcher Coalition

[https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.wolfwatcher.org_!!GaaboA!-nZpN3BgqZUR3bFhZ0UfWnmtRvDDfBQVirELyU4QHPvBUI1Z_pl-XqiaKwCe7Sc\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/http://www.wolfwatcher.org_!!GaaboA!-nZpN3BgqZUR3bFhZ0UfWnmtRvDDfBQVirELyU4QHPvBUI1Z_pl-XqiaKwCe7Sc$)

**Montana Game and Fish Department
Wolf Hunting/Trapping Seasons
January 2020**



PO Box 161281
Duluth, MN 55816
www.wolfwatcher.org

The National Wolfwatcher Coalition is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting positive attitudes about wolves through education. Nationwide, we have over 828,000 followers, representing not only Montana residents but thousands of others who contribute to the state's tourism economy, specifically travelling to Montana in the hope of catching a glimpse of a wild wolf.

The National Wolfwatcher Coalition does not support the hunting/trapping quotas as proposed. While some will consider the quota "conservative" in an attempt to control populations and manage impacts on game populations and livestock, we believe it is unreasonable for the following reasons:

- In the name of "conservation" and "management" Montana's focus is to keep the wolf off the federal endangered species list. This is an extremely low bar and does not take into account the many positive benefits of wolves on the landscape.
- Montana already has extremely liberal wolf management regulations. Lethal control can be authorized to kill problem wolves.
- Past experience has shown that the quota was exceeded outside the Park boundaries (In 2016, Units 313 & 316 each had a quota of two wolves, yet three wolves were killed in each of the units; this year Unit 313 was again exceeded by one).

- Yellowstone Park interpreters annually talk to anywhere from 30,000 to 50,000 people a year about wolves and in a recent Park survey, the number one animal visitors hope to see is the wolf. When a Park wolf is killed legally or illegally, it creates world-wide outrage and reflects poorly on the state, especially when lured out of the Park with bait and calls. At a minimum, there should be large buffer zones around our National Parks, closed to wolf hunting. However, we understand that creating a buffer is outside your authority. Therefore, we ask that the quota for each of the Units 313 & 316 be reduced to only one.
- We further recommend that the quota be reduced for every wolf killed illegally within that hunting unit or for every wolf killed in excess of the quota. For example, if the quota is two, but two wolves were killed illegally any time during that year, the quota is zero for that unit for that year. If another wolf is later killed, it is applied to the following year quota. The same should be true if the quota is exceeded. For every wolf killed above the quota, it would reduce the quota for that unit the following season. This would send a strong message that poaching and exceeding the quota will not be tolerated.
- Our National Parks provide an economic benefit to local gateway communities (defined as 60-mile radius around each park boundary). In 2016, the economic output for Yellowstone National Park was \$680 million (Glacier was \$270 million).

The North American Wildlife Conservation Model states that wildlife is held in the public trust to be managed for all and does not support the casual killing of wildlife. Hatred is not a valid reason.

Washington State University researchers have found that it is counter-productive to kill wolves to keep them from preying on livestock.

Research also suggests that hunting wolves does not increase tolerance or reduce poaching. In one study, it was found that poaching increased, suggesting that liberalizing wolf culling may have sent a negative message about the value of wolves or that poaching prohibitions would not be enforced.

Another study showed that hunters of wolves showed little inclination to conserve wolves.

We believe Montana Fish & Game should do more to educate the public, including hunters, about the positive aspects of wolves. For example, there is strong evidence that wolf predation could markedly decrease prevalence of CWD. Wolves facilitate the recovery of browse-sensitive understory herbs and forest regeneration. Long-

term trophic linkages have been identified in the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park between wolves, elk, and deciduous tree species — aspen and cottonwood.

Just because we can kill wolves; doesn't mean we should. We now have fewer wolves in Yellowstone National Park than we did 15 years ago.

Politically based management does little to protect the ecological benefits of wolves and does not increase tolerance.

In summary, we ask that the quota for Units 313 & 316 be reduced to only one wolf and we ask that you also reduce the quotas elsewhere within the state of Montana to allow wolves to fill their ecological niche. Any wolf killed illegally, or wolves killed above the quota, should be deducted from the quota for that unit, thus sending the message that Montana truly cares about wildlife.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Nancy Warren

312. **From:** Devon P. Allard <dpa@millerlawpc.com>

Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2020 9:54 AM

To: FWP Commission <FWComm@mt.gov>

Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposal to reduce wolf quotas in Units 313 and 316

Please see the attached letter. Thanks,

Devon

Devon P. Allard

The Miller Law Firm, P.C.

950 West University Drive, Suite 300 | Rochester, MI 48307

248.841.2200 (t) | 248.652.2852 (f) | dpa@millerlawpc.com

DEVON P. ALLARD
16028 BIRWOOD AVE., BEVERLY HILLS, MI. 48025
dpa@millerlawpc.com

January 21, 2020

Via Email

Commissioners
Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks
fwcomm@mt.gov

Re: Proposal to Reduce Wolf Quotas in Units 313 and 316

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of amending Montana's regulations to reduce the wolf quota in Wolf Management Units 313 and 316 to one wolf per unit. There are numerous reasons why this proposal makes sense. I would like to highlight just a few of them for your consideration.

One reason why taking measures to limit the number of wolves taken is that wolves help prevent the spread of disease by reducing the lifespan of sick animals who spread infection. Preventing the spread of disease among the animal population is very important. I know this firsthand. I live in Michigan, where we fairly recently have had issues with chronic wasting disease among the deer population. This was a very real and scary threat to the deer population. In response, Michigan placed limitations on baiting. While not everyone was thrilled about the limitations, these measures represented a rational response to a significant problem that has resulted in successfully managing the problem. Likewise, sick animals who spread disease is a very real threat to the animals in Yellowstone. We know that wolves tend to prey on sick animals, which is a benefit to the overall population of animals because it manages the spread of disease. Simply put, the more wolves, the better chance of reducing the lifespan of contagious animals and keeping other animals healthy. This alone, is reason enough to reduce the quota to one wolf per unit. While wolves tend to reduce the population of sick animals, research indicates that the concerns that wolves would adversely impact the elk population are not warranted.

Another reason to reduce the quota is the economic incentive associated with ensuring that wolves are plentiful and visible in Yellowstone. A National Park Service study determined that watching wolves and grizzly bears were two of the biggest draws of visitors in Yellowstone. Further research indicates that wolf tourism has become very popular and is responsible for the increased numbers of people visiting Yellowstone. (There was an interesting segment on 60 Minutes about this last Sunday). 21% more visitors came to Yellowstone in 2017 as compared to 2011. These economic benefits provide funding which will manage Yellowstone and its complex ecosystem. If visitors are unable to see wolves, they are less likely to visit, less likely to encourage others to visit, and more likely to spend money elsewhere.

My wife and I have never been to Yellowstone, but it is a dream of ours that we hope to realize soon. And, like the large number of tourists who come to Yellowstone each year, when we do visit, we hope to get a glimpse of a wolf in the wild. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,


Devon P. Allard

313. **Josh Metten** <josh@jhecotouradventures.com>

Comments from EcoTour Adventures regarding 2020 revisions to Wolf Hunting Regulations

To Whom it may Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the 2020 Montana Wolf Hunting Regulations. Please find comments from EcoTour Adventures attached.

Regards,

--

Josh Metten

Naturalist, [Jackson Hole Ecotour Adventures \[jhecotouradventures.com\]](http://JacksonHoleEcotourAdventures.com)

www.joshmetten.com [joshmetten.com]

307-699-1936

[\[instagram.com\]](https://www.instagram.com/joshmetten)



Wildlife Division
PO Box 200701
Helena, MT 59620-0701

1/27/2020

Members of the Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the 2020 Wolf Hunting Regulations. EcoTour Adventures is a Wildlife Tour Operator and permittee of Yellowstone National Park. We operate wildlife watching tours 365 days a year including multi day tours of the Northern Range of Yellowstone National Park based in the community of Gardiner, MT. Each year we share our public lands and wildlife with over 7000 people visiting the area.

Hunting is an integral aspect of Western Culture, many of the guides at EcoTour Adventures are avid hunters. The same is true of wildlife watching, wolf watching alone in Yellowstone generates an estimated \$35 million dollars of economic activity annually for surrounding communities, attracting 150,000 visitors each year¹.

We understand that Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks is tasked with a difficult job of balancing the values and needs of multiple stakeholders and would like to thank the commission for proposing to reduce the wolf hunting quota in units 313 and 316 from 2 to 1. Published research shows that wolf hunting adjacent protected areas leads to decreased viewing opportunities for the public². Reducing these quotas in the aforementioned areas, which also have limited predator conflict issues as compared to other areas of the state is a reasonable compromise which better represents the diverse stakeholders of Montana's public lands and wildlife.

EcoTour Adventures endorses the recommendation by the Commission to reduce quotas from 2 to 1 in units 313 and 316.

Regards,
Josh Metten

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background.

Lead Naturalist, EcoTour Adventures

Taylor Phillips

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background.

Owner EcoTour Adventures

¹ Duffield J, et al. (2006) Wolves and People in Yellowstone: Impacts on the Regional Economy. Yellowstone Park Foundation

² Borg BL, Arthur SM, Broman NA, Cassidy KA, McIntyre R, Smith DW, et al. (2016) Implications of Harvest on the Boundaries of Protected Areas for Large Carnivore Viewing Opportunities. PLoS ONE 11(4): e0153808. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0153808>

